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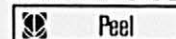
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EDDY BISHARA PHARMACY

Book Industry Battle Looms at McGill

Takeover bid for Chapters Inc. puts campus bookstore on shaky ground

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

Since Trilogy's \$63.5-million hostile takeover bid for the Chapters bookstore empire was made public last week, many at McGill have been following the news intently. That's because they know that the result of the high-powered business maneuvering will profoundly impact the way books are sold on campus.

In a lucrative deal inked three years ago, Chapters Inc. acquired the right to manage McGill's bookstore. With the possibly imminent buyout of the giant book retailer, members of the university community are questioning what effect it will have on campus book sales, and at this point it remains unclear.

The massive cash offer from prominent Canadian businessman Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman, his wife and chief executive officer of Indigo Books Inc., came under the name of Trilogy Retail Enterprises, a newly created company. Should the deal be completed, Trilogy will hold approximately 50.1 per cent of the shares in Chapters, and it will move ahead with a proposed merger of the Chapters and Indigo companies.

Here at McGill, Chapters' handling of bookstore management has been the subject of intense scrutiny since the company arrived on campus in 1997. Many students and faculty members were initially wary of relinquishing the university's control over book sales to a corporation, arguing that, driven by profits, it would not have the university's best interests in mind. They also feared that the bookstore would be exposed to the cutthroat private sector competition from which it had been relatively isolated in its independent days.

Their concerns were legitimated earlier this semester when Chapters, suffering from financial troubles, was unable to pay some suppliers on time. McGill's bookstore was plagued by shipment delays and cancellations, prompting fears among faculty and students alike. Now, with the looming possibility of a takeover, critics are again wondering whether it was worth handing the managerial responsibilities over to a private company.

"It could work out in all kinds of unpredictable ways," said Richard Janda, a law professor at McGill who has been unhappy with Chapters' presence on campus.

Before giving Chapters a contract, a Senate committee closely studied the company to confirm that it would be able to meet the university's needs. If the Trilogy buyout is approved and the merger proceeds as planned, Janda thinks that McGill should examine Indigo under a similar microscope.

"The university would have to revisit this relationship in the event of a takeover," he said.

Although serious analysis has yet to be done, he is not positive that Indigo's business strategy will be able to satisfy the McGill bookstore's specific requirements.

"We'd have to look at their particular marketing approach," he said. "Indigo has looked for many linkages with non-book products. They're understood to have a marketing savvy that Chapters lacks. We need a bookstore that's focused on ideas... it should be a bookstore that has leading academic literature. It may be that a strictly academic orientation isn't what Indigo wants."

But according to Jeff Swift, President of

Chapters Campus Bookstores, the takeover rumours should not be a source of angst at McGill. While he would not answer questions about the potential merger, he did explain that McGill has a protective clause in its contract with Chapters, allowing it to retain control over the store in the event of a buyout.

"In the current contract, McGill has the ability to veto any ownership changes," said Swift. "There is safety in there for McGill. There is no cause for worry."

Furthermore, Swift claimed, a change in the ownership of Chapters would not alter the management approach used at the university's bookstore. He said that any company coming in would be bound to existing contracts and would not be a neophyte to the book industry.

"Practically speaking, if another company took control, they'd know we're in the book business," said Swift. "Anyone coming in to take over Chapters would also be in the book business, hypothetically speaking, so they're not going to come in and do something silly."

Alan Charade, McGill's director of ancillary services and the school's go-between with Chapters, thinks that until any concrete deals have been signed, the implications for McGill's bookstore are purely speculative.

Charade joined Swift, however, in pointing out that if the university's administration was particularly upset with an ownership change, it would be within its rights to scrap its management deal with

Chapters Campus Bookstores.

"We have an option to exercise to deal with anything we don't like," said Charade. "If there's a major restructuring, we can terminate the contract."

But unlike Janda, Charade was not too keen on subjecting Indigo's business practices to an extensive probe, confident that the company would likely make a suitable replacement for Chapters.

"One of the considerations [in 1997] was that Chapters is a strong Canadian company," said Charade. "A takeover by Indigo wouldn't change that."

Nevertheless, he did maintain that the university will closely monitor all developments to safeguard the bookstore from unreasonable damage in the course of any transactions.

"We're putting in due diligence to make sure that what's going on with McGill's partners is also good for McGill," said Charade.

Trilogy's offer last Tuesday was quickly rebuffed by Larry Stevenson, Chapters' chief executive officer, who claimed the takeover proposal was "totally inadequate." Still, observers of the Canadian publishing industry believe that the country cannot support two separate mammoth book retailers. In light of Chapters' recent financial woes, they see an Indigo takeover as a positive development, and one that is likely to occur.

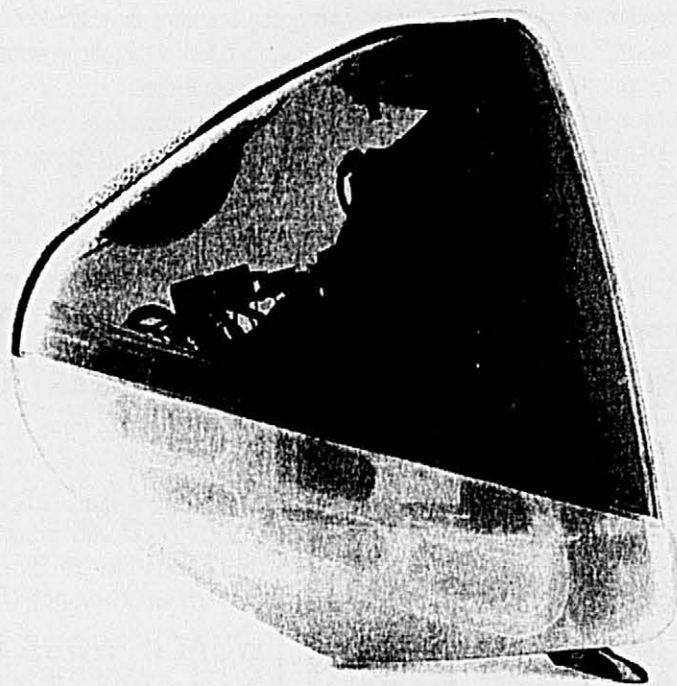
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New Environmental Policy Unveiled

Plan to make McGill more eco-conscious awaits approval from McGill's Senate

BY ROBERTO ROCHA
News Reporter

The year-long effort of some dedicated individuals to make McGill go green was finally made public last Wednesday.

A meeting room in the Shatner building was packed with close to 100 students and faculty, who had turned out to hear the Environmental Policy Workgroup present its much-anticipated brainchild that it hopes will finally commit the university to the environment.

The workgroup, a division of the Senate Committee on Physical Development, formed thanks to the efforts of Cassie Seaborn, who currently sits on the workgroup as QPIRG-McGill's representative. Seaborn, who was shocked at the absence of recycling bins when she moved into residence two years ago, has since enlisted QPIRG's help in lobbying for a coherent environmental policy for the university, drawing student support with petitions, information tables, and endorsements from student organizations. Last February the Senate approved the workgroup's formation, and the process of drafting a new environmental policy for McGill began.

According to Karine Kisilenko, the new policy would let McGill finally honour two commitments it made to the environment nearly ten years ago. She pointed to the Talloires Declaration in 1990 and the Halifax Declaration in 1991, documents calling on universities to be models of environmental responsibility, and to minimize negative environmental practices.

"Given that McGill has signed both agreements, it has to live up to its commitments," Kisilenko said Wednesday.

Brian Sarwer-Foner, the committee's Post-Graduate Students' Society representative, explained the goal of the newly drafted policy, to establish McGill as a model for

conscientious environmental policy.

"There will be great benefits by formalizing McGill's commitment to the environment and assuming a leadership role. McGill's image will be enhanced in the local and broader community," he explained.

Sarwer-Foner also noted that the costs incurred by the university in the beginning would be recouped many times over as McGill becomes more efficient and less wasteful.

Workgroup members highlighted several aspects of the far-reaching policy, which touches on everything from recycling to energy use and from purchasing policies to the ethical costs of investments and research. The policy even calls for McGill to amend its mission statement to include a "commitment to the restoration and preservation of the environment."

"This shows how far-reaching we're trying to make this. [We want to] institute it at all levels of McGill, and even reflect it in McGill's mission. Whether we will achieve that, has still to be seen," said Sarwer-Foner.

Evidence of the need for a coherent environmental policy, however, is not hard to come by. During Wednesday's meeting QPIRG's Becky Lipton held up an enormous stack of files detailing McGill's years-long poor record on the environment. And according to Lipton, that mass of reports reflected only a fraction of the concerns that students have raised with environmental issues over the years.

Among the documents was a 1994 waste audit performed by students who had gathered all of McGill's garbage into one pile and sifted through it. Their findings? McGill was producing six tons of garbage per day, 50 per cent of which is recyclable.

But without an institutional framework for waste management, Lipton said, these problems cannot be dealt with.

"Projects led by Greening McGill

have been happening in past years, such as more recycling, waste reduction in residences, [and] reduction of Styrofoam in cafeterias. The projects were successful because people care a lot and are good at what they do," she said. "But two years later someone will have to start from scratch again because there is no policy from which people can work."

"With a formal policy in place an infrastructure will exist every year to avoid restarting each time," said Lipton.

Some of the students present voiced their concern with the potential financial implications of a new policy. Given the hard financial times McGill has fallen on, administrators, they said, might not be receptive to costly new policies.

But workgroup members responded citing what they called the dangers of turning McGill's environmental standards into a matter of dollars and cents.

"When it comes to university financing, I don't think people should get discouraged because our libraries are falling apart. It's all a question of scarce resources and where the people want to decide what the priorities are. This year and for the next few years the university has decided that professors are going to be the priority. That doesn't mean the environment can't be a priority as well," said SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak. "Please don't buy into the argument that money is needed elsewhere. It's all a matter of convincing the administration that students want to see some programs on the environment."

Workgroup members all emphasized the need for students' support in pushing the policy forward.

"Talk about it with profs, talk about it with everybody, just let everybody know, so that when we actually need support, we'll have it," agreed Lipton.

The policy's passage by Senate remains a long way away, however. Earlier this year, Senate's physical development committee advised the work-



A great turnout for the unveiling of a new environmental policy for McGill

group to undertake extensive consultation with the McGill community in order to fine-tune the new policy's points. That was one of the goals of last week's open meeting.

And in the end, workgroup members said they were pleased with how well the event went off.

"A lot of people showed up and that's exactly what we need. People had very concrete examples and genuine concerns, and that was our goal here, to get student input in order to make the policy better and also to get students to have a sense of ownership over the policy. It is something that belongs to the students in belonging to McGill," said Lipton. "I think that people will go out from here and work toward getting it implemented."

She also said that she hopes the policy goes will get the green light from the physical development committee as early as February, 2001. That would allow the policy's passage by Senate by the following April.

In the meantime, Lipton said, the workgroup is inviting the entire McGill community to look at the policy proposal and lend plenty of input.

A copy of the proposal can be found at <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/qpirg/gmpolicy.html>.

Highlights of Environmental Policy Proposal

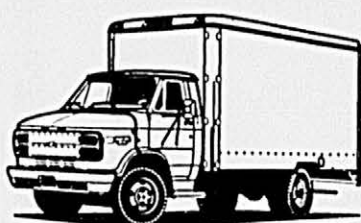
Some proposed recommendations included in the environmental policy

- The formation of a permanent Senate Committee on the Environment to monitor the execution of the environmental policy
- A yearly report to assess if the University's endowment and pension funds are invested in accordance with environmental protection
- Environmental literacy's inclusion in more of McGill's curriculum
- Regulations to ensure that research conducted at McGill complies with basic environmental standards
- The elimination of pesticides and outdoor salt
- Planting of more trees
- Establishment of environmentally-responsible norms for design and renovation of buildings
- The creation of environment portfolios on student societies

Congratulations to our Election Day Politician Quiz-o-Rama. With seven of nine answers and three bonus clues right, our winner is J. Bertram. Congratulations! To claim your prize... just try and find it!

Answers: 1. Lloyd Axworthy 2. Svend Robinson 3. Jean Charest 4. Michel Fournier 5. Robert Bourassa 6. Daniel Johnson 7. Jacques Parizeau 8. Ovide Mercredi 9. Ed Broadbent 10. Jean Charest (a) Joe Clark (b) Jean Charest (c) Brian Mulroney

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Principal Shapiro Set to Retire

Hiring committee preparing to fill McGill's top job

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

Administrators are working busily to begin the process of determining who will be the next to hold McGill's top job.

This comes after an announcement from Bernard Shapiro, McGill's incumbent principal for the last 6 years, that he will be retiring at the end of his term of office in August 2002. Shapiro took the job in July, 1994. While the term of office is normally only five years, a couple of years ago McGill gave him a two-year extension.

And while the door remains open for Shapiro to reapply, he told The Daily Friday that he would be leaving his job at the end of his term to make way for someone new.

"I am definitely intending to retire," said Shapiro on Thursday. "It's time for something new for me and for McGill."

That announcement this week had many on campus reflecting on Shapiro's term, and saying that, while he will be missed, McGill now has an opportunity to find someone new to lead it into the next several years.

"I spoke to Principal Shapiro recently and he told me how much he's looking forward to some sort of life after McGill. I'm sure we'll miss him, but I think new blood is always good," said SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak.

Political science professor Sam Noumoff, recently chosen to represent Senate on the hiring committee said that it's too early to say who will be considered.

"There are certainly no names that have come to my attention," he said.

Noumoff went on to describe the type of person that he thinks the hiring committee should look for.

"There are two things that should be considered. We need someone with vision, but also someone with academic involvement," said Noumoff. He suggested that the committee should look for candidates who

would teach or work in a lab in addition to handling their administrative duties, so as to ensure the principal remains close with the campus community at large.

He also said that he hopes the committee decides not to use the services of job-finders. "This notion that headhunting firms are the best way of recruiting senior administrators is not one that I share," he said.

The coming days should see final appointments to the Advisory Committee Regarding the Principalship which will oversee hiring. The committee is expected to meet early next month to begin soliciting applications from new candidates. They are also expected to have McGill's Senate and Board of Governors approve a final candidate by the end of the coming winter term.

Thus far, committee members include McGill Association of University Teachers President Bruce Shore and Vice-President Roger Prichard, Professors Samuel Noumoff and Richard Janda, and the Alumni Association's Sally McDougal and Stuart Cobbett. SSMU and PGSS have yet to name their appointments to the committee.

It is unknown exactly how the committee will screen candidates and eventually pick a successful applicant, but, according to Baraniak, the important thing is that there will be a student voice on the committee. He said this will go a long way to ensuring the selection of a principal that is concerned with the real needs of the university.

"Students will have a say throughout the



Shapiro set to retire at the end of next year

process," he said. "That means they will have an ample opportunity to voice concern."

As for Shapiro, the end of his term as McGill's principal will cap off a distinguished career. After receiving an undergraduate degree from McGill in the late 1950s, Shapiro and his younger brother, Harold, now the President of Princeton, took over Ruby Foo's, a popular Montreal Chinese restaurant. Then, after earning his Doctorate in Education at Harvard, Shapiro went on to stints at Boston University, the University of Western Ontario, and University of Toronto, before becoming a deputy minister in Ontario's Ministry of Education. He left the bureaucracy in the late 1980s to take an professorial posting at University of Toronto, before finally taking over as McGill's head honcho. Besides his rapid rise through the ranks of the education sector, Shapiro has also distinguished himself by taking home such awards as the Order of Canada and honorary degrees from McGill, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, Yeshiva University, McMaster University, Université de Montréal, and the University of Edinburgh.

Campaigning for Exam Rights

BY SEAN CARRIE
News Reporter

After close to 100 students signed letters protesting classroom conditions that forced many of them to stand up during an October midterm, SSMU VP University Affairs Clara Péron announced last week that she will be bringing the matter to McGill's Senate.

At Wednesday's Senate meeting, Péron plans to present a motion to amend McGill's Handbook on Student Rights so as to provide students with a guarantee of sufficient classroom space and seating to write examinations.

The motion will ask Senators to include in the handbook a promise of that "every student has the right to a proper examination environment," of which "a proper chair," "a writing surface of adequate size and stability," "adequate personal space," "a visible clock in the examination room," and "quiet in the examination room" are integral components.

A second amendment would also give students "the right to take the examination at a later date should it be impossible to comply with these conditions expeditiously."

Last week, Péron said that she expects the amendments to pass easily at Senate the because the stated demands deal with such "a simple right," and that she is eager to have them incorporated into the Handbook as soon as possible. She continued that "it would be good if there could be such a right for next semester," and that this was the reason that she was taking the motion directly to the Senate, instead of through the "normal channels," which involve more than one level of deliberation.

Nick Ellis, who co-authored the amendments with Péron, proclaimed himself very happy with the quick progress being made on the issue. As reported in the Daily on November 6, Ellis was among a group of students who organized a letter of protest when a number of their fellow

classmates in a Latin American Politics course were left deskless for their midterm. "I've been relatively surprised at how quickly this issue has progressed," Ellis said. "Within a relatively short amount of time it went from a general concern of students to action in the Senate."

Both Ellis and Péron were optimistic regarding the proposed amendments' chances in the Senate. "My hope would be that every student is guaranteed the proper environment to take an exam," said Ellis. "Eventually, the major theme of it will be passed, even if it's amended or changed."

Péron noted that "we're trying to play strategy, we're trying to get it to pass quickly," and asserted that should the proposed amendments be voted down this time in the Senate, "the essence of the motion will remain" in any amended version.

"There is visible support on the part of the students," said Péron, a fact which she noted would lend a great deal of credence to the proposed amendments in the eyes of the Senate.

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Curing the Apathy About AIDS

McGill prof Dr. Mark Wainberg balances role as researcher and activist

BY JESSICA SPECTOR
The McGill Daily

"I have always tried to maintain both a research profile and a profile as an AIDS activist," says Mark Wainberg, professor of medicine and head of the AIDS Center at McGill.

As chair of the conference planning committee, former president of the International AIDS Society, Director of Biomedical Research at the Montreal Jewish General Hospital, and the first researcher in Canada to work with HIV, Wainberg is both locally and internationally recognized as an authority in the field, and acknowledges that his leadership role carries various responsibilities.

"I find it very difficult to work in the field of HIV and just have an 'ivory tower' attitude," he added.

Wainberg is one of the organizers of the next International AIDS Conference which, when it takes place in Toronto four years from now, will be a forum for research presentations as well as a means of putting pressure on developed nations to aid the third world in the fight against AIDS. "We would want to see Canada play a leading role in regard to leading certain types of

clinical intervention trials in Africa and...helping people in Africa to have greater drug access than is currently the case," he said.

Although Wainberg states that the developing world has borne the brunt of the AIDS epidemic, he felt that Toronto was an appropriate location for 2004's conference given the third world's lack of infrastructure and the difficulty of accommodating a 12,000 participant symposium in this context. Despite the problems encountered during this year's conference in Durban, South Africa, however, he insists on the necessity of organizing future events in the developing world as that is where funds for treatment and research are most lacking and 95 per cent of AIDS cases originate there. "We have to have this meeting in a developing country again. There is no question." The conference could not be held in the United States as American law requires HIV-positive travellers to declare their status upon crossing the border, a requirement that is viewed as a violation of human rights by members of the international AIDS community.

Wainberg maintains that some of the greatest obstacles facing AIDS activism

today is apathy and misinformation, commenting last December that although some feel that AIDS is no longer a threat to civilized society, the epidemic itself is reaching manic proportions. "Within another five years, AIDS is without any question going to be the world's leading cause of death. On an international scale, it had claimed more lives than ever before and will continue to claim more lives to the extent that this is now the world's number one public health priority."

Furthermore, North Americans seem relatively unconcerned with the impact that HIV and AIDS are having throughout the world, a sentiment that Wainberg feels perpetuates misperceptions on the severity of the virus and its global reach. "The best way to prevent new infections is to ensure that people know how dangerous HIV is," stated Wainberg. He sees those who deny that HIV causes AIDS as doing a disservice to AIDS prevention because they send a mixed message to people in developing nations about the need to practice safe sex. In several African countries, the government itself refutes that HIV causes AIDS.

Wainberg feels that to respond to such claims is to try to prove scientifically that

HIV is in fact the cause of AIDS. "The scientists who have made these protestations to the contrary are probably more anxious to see their names in the newspapers than to help the world in any meaningful and positive way," he said. "Their motivations are the motives of evil."

Scientists continue to research treatment options, but it will probably be years before a viable HIV vaccine is found. Also being developed is a microbicide, namely a compound that can be applied vaginally, as a gel or cream, that women could use in anticipation of sexual intercourse as a protection against HIV. This would prove a huge step in empowering women, especially in developing countries, to protect themselves against HIV-infected partners when condom use is not an option. The World Bank pledged at Durban to purchase and distribute microbicides free of charge to women in developing nations. "If a woman can't afford the product, then there's no point in developing it," Wainberg said. "So this commitment by the World Bank is extremely important because we don't have the product yet. Now the [pharmaceutical] companies have an incentive to go forward."



Dr. Mark Wainberg

Wainberg anticipates that many of the issues facing the HIV/AIDS community today will still be on the agenda at the Toronto conference. "The situation is getting worse before it gets better," he said. "It's vitally important that we do our best in regards to HIV education and awareness worldwide."

-with files from Alexandra Clemence and Tal Pinchersky

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Student Lobby Group in Bed with Government, Critics Say

Yet another CASA staffer leaves student lobby group for plum government job

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

Yet another in a long line of Canadian Alliance of Student Associations staff members has jumped ship to take a job with the federal government.

Ryan Dunford, CASA's Government Relations Coordinator, announced earlier this fall that he would be leaving CASA to take a job with Human Resources Development Canada, the federal government department that oversees most of Ottawa's dealings with the education sector. Dunford's decision to jump ship makes him one of at least four CASA staffers to take up work with the federal government since its inception in 1995.

But that has some students wondering just how effective a social critic CASA can be, given what they see as the group's close ties with the federal government.

Michael Conlon, national chair for the CASA rival Canadian Federation of Students, said students at CASA member schools like McGill, need to question just why so many CASA staffers have gone on to work for the federal Liberals.

"It really makes you wonder," said Conlon. "They say that theirs is a mature lobbying strategy, but it sounds more like an employment strategy."

François Tanguay-Renaud, a McGill law student who was outspoken in his criticism of CASA from his seat on SSMU council last year, agreed.

"It doesn't surprise me at all that someone from CASA has taken a job with the federal government," he said.

"It's seemed for a long time that people involved in CASA are there to represent their own interests, not those of students. What is it going to take for CASA to begin to be critical of the federal government?"

Critics have also questioned policy recommendations being made by CASA in its annual campaign this year. Last month, following the Liberal government's presentation of a federal mini-budget which most education lobby groups called a slap in the

face of public education, CASA issued a press release entitled "Mini-budget is an educated start." In the release, CASA President Mark Kissel described the budget as "the beginning of a real commitment to Canada's most valuable renewable resource." CASA is also currently calling on the government to lower interest on fixed-rate student loans from 2.5 per cent to 2 per cent and restore education transfers to 1995-96 levels. These proposals, critics say, don't go far enough and even take some needed

pressure off of the federal government.

But Kissel takes issue with suggestions that CASA might be in bed with the federal government.

"That's just complete crap," he said. "It's preposterous. We've criticized the federal government as much as any other group and it's not like I call Ryan Dunford now and say, 'Hey, Ryan, what's coming down the pipe?'"

SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak also defended CASA, saying that it wasn't unusual for lobbyists to take jobs with government.

"The criticism is made that we're Liberal kiss-asses, but it happens among Canadian Federation of Students people as well," he said, referring to a handful of former CFS heads who have gone on to jobs with British Columbia's provincial NDP government. "You just can't make the assumption that those in the student movement shouldn't join the government."

And according to Baraniak, it can be beneficial to have friends in high places, like Tara Newell, a former SSMU President, now an HRDC policy adviser, and Alex Usher, a former CASA President, now a senior policy adviser for the Millennium Scholarship Foundation that the federal Liberals founded in 1998.

"It's these connections that will let us have real influence. I can call Tara or Alex any time I want... That's what lobbying is all about."

In all, four CASA staffers are known to have gone on to jobs with federal govern-

Meanwhile, Hoops Harrison, who suddenly left his post last fall as CASA's national director suddenly, is hard at work with Alberta's education ministry which was headed by Dunford's father, Conservative MLA Clint Dunford, for much of the last decade.

"Obviously, people go all the time from lobby groups to government. To say that you're not allowed to is just ridiculous," said Kissel.

But Conlon wonders whether students at schools like McGill

are being well represented by lobbyists who are like-minded enough with the Conservatives in Alberta and the federal Liberals, that they wind up earning government jobs.

"With what the Liberal government has done to education in Canada, when a student organization stands idly by and with-

out saying anything about it, it's really frightening," he said.

Conlon also said that the flow of staffers from CASA to the government, as well as CASA's failure to call for dramatic education reforms, speaks to a larger issue. He pointed to CASA policies that require schools to stage only council motions, not campuswide referenda, before joining CASA, to illustrate why he considers CASA an elite alliance of student association executives, that operates top-down.

"It goes to the heart of CASA's claim that they represent a student voice in Ottawa," he said.

But Baraniak said CASA has made its name as an effective student front, not through the CSF's brand of grassroots militancy, but through lobbying that requires a strong relationship with government officials.

"I think both approaches have some value," said Baraniak. "But CASA has access to people such as [federal finance minister] Paul Martin. That's lobbying and that's what we've decided to go for."

“They say that they have a mature lobbying strategy, but it sounds to me more like an employment strategy.”

ment. Besides Usher and Dunford, Katherine Kowalchuk made the jump from CASA to the Ottawa office of Liberal MP Reg Alcock a few years ago, while CASA's one-time Communications Coordinator Martin Simard now holds down a job as a senior partnership officer with HRDC's Learning Initiatives and Partnerships Group.

Is SSMU Forcing its Logo on Clubs?

BY ALEXANDRA CLEMENCE
The McGill Daily

SSMU's recent decision to begin enforcing a policy that requires all clubs and services posters to carry the Student Society's emblem has ruffled feathers among club leaders in recent weeks.

Although clubs and services organizers acknowledge the symbolic value of their posters bearing the SSMU logo, they are concerned that it suggests that Executive Council is more involved in student group affairs than it is in reality.

"This gives the impression that the Student Society is more involved than it actually is, and it can seem as though they are taking credit for events that they may have no clue about whatsoever," said Akin Alaga, SSMU councillor and a member of the Black Students' Network.

Chris Gratto, VP Clubs & Services for SSMU, explained that the decision to implement the policy was based on concerns that the University administration was unaware of the extent to which the Students' Society-related groups are involved in student life.

"The University is really not aware of what clubs do, and that these are SSMU groups. It is also a broader awareness issue because [SSMU] will be asking the University for stuff, and it is important that they realize how much students and clubs offer to this campus." Gratto added that

students themselves could gain a better understanding of SSMU's functions within McGill.

"It is just a real push to students so they know what the Student Society does, and where their fees go," he said.

Alaga admits that certain student groups tend to overlook their obligations towards the Student Society. "These clubs are SSMU funded, and a lot of clubs seem to forget that. They tend to see themselves in relation with the Students' Society as 'us against them' whereas they are both actually on the same team, and [the emblem] could help reinforce that symbolically."

But Erica Weinstein, SSMU Council representative for the Women's Union, believes that club and service organizers continue to feel alienated from the SSMU, and that this is why many have reacted so negatively to the new policy. "We do not really feel a connection to SSMU the way that we should. We appreciate the financial support, but we never see [SSMU VP Clubs and Services] Chris Gratto."

Weinstein understands, however, the motivations behind the Student's Society's decision to implement the logo policy. "I understand their reasoning and I think it is important that people know about the kinds of things that SSMU does,



SSMU Clubs must now carry SSMU's emblem

and that people see the connection between Clubs & Services and the greater SSMU monster," she said. "At the same time, [SSMU] also has to understand that if they are going to want us to tell people about how much SSMU is supporting us, they need to offer more support than just money."

Printed matter publicizing high profile events will bear one of the following messages: "(Club) and the Students' Society of McGill University Presents" or "In Conjunction with the Students' Society of McGill University."

The McGill Daily News Section would like to thank its writers for helping to make it the most syndicated news section of any student newspaper in Canada.

Our writers include:

Emile Amzallag, Rachel Applebaum, Holly Beck, Josh Beitel, Maya Berger, Le'nise Brothers, Damien Butvick, Alison Brunette, Cristina Campisi, Sean Carrie, KC Chang, Veronique Chélin, Philip Cleary, Alexandra Clemence, Rachel Dempsey, Alanna Edwards, Raoul Gebert, Adrien Gollop, Barbara Haas, Alex Halperin, Alanah Heffez, Pauline Hwang, Scott Iverson, Natasha Jategaonkar, Sara Lazarovic, Carolyn Lefebvre, Ian McKellar, Emilie Moorehouse, Christopher Needles, Joslyn Oosenberg, Laroux Peoples, David Podgorski, Eilis Quinn, Roberto Rocha, Omar Sachedina, Alex Sadvari, Adam Shapiro, Clarisse Siebert, Alex Singer, Jessica Specter, Aziz Sunderji, Philip Todd, Jon Woodside, Nicholas Yeo

Journalist from Kosovo Criticizes United Nations' Paternalism

Editor of Albanian-language newspaper speaks to The Daily about international efforts to improve Kosovo's domestic media

BY EILIS QUINN
The McGill Daily

Kosovo may need to learn from the West in order to set up responsible media in the aftermath of the Balkan wars, said Agron Bajrami, editor at Koha Ditore, an Albanian-language newspaper in the breakaway province.

Bajrami spoke with The Daily in an interview last week. He was in Canada with eight other print and broadcast journalists from Kosovo for almost one month as part of a program, coordinated by the Montreal based Réseau Liberté, to assist in the development of independent media in the region.

Whereas in communist countries like Yugoslavia, media functioned as a mouthpiece for the government, the Réseau Liberté was organized to help the media in post-communist states learn how to operate responsibly as part of a democratic society. Kosovo, which has been under UN administration since the end of the NATO bombing campaign in June 1999, has been deluged with experts working in tandem with locals to establish western style democratic institutions.

Though Bajrami highlighted that the media in Kosovo had a lot to learn about the balance between freedom of speech and balanced reporting, he was resentful toward what he saw as UN arrogance in dealing with the local media. He argued that the Kosovo media would be better served by speaking with Western journalists, than with UN bureaucrats.

"The UN imposes things...It makes me, as a journalist, very mad," Bajrami said. "They come in and say they know how to fix things and bring you something written by an expert in Bosnia or Zaire telling you how to do it...But who says Bosnia and Kosovo are the same things? They are not, they are completely different. I would rather have an expert from New York, I would even rather have an expert from Vancouver, just someone who knows about the West. Why do they think I want to know about Bosnia?"

He admitted that Kosovo's journalists have to adjust to a new style of government, but said that they have been doing a good job thus far and do not appreciate the UN's paternalistic behaviour.

“We have to learn how to be fair, and how to be objective, how not to go too far with freedom of speech.”

"You have to understand that democracy is all new to us," Bajrami continued. "How to balance freedom of speech with media responsibility, our history has been compressed into such a short period of time."

"Look, I know that we do not know everything, but we are not dumb and amateur either. And that's what the UN does,

one minute portraying us as dumb and amateur and the next minute praising us for our coverage of the October elections. They just have to make it look like they are busy here."

Bajrami pointed to the UN shut down of Dita, an Albanian-language newspaper based in Kosovo's capital of Pristina, as an example of the sort of tension which can occur between the UN and the local population.

Beginning June 2000, the UN issued a number of warnings to Dita, for writing articles identifying Serbian individuals as war criminals and including their names, addresses and photographs. The UN stated that it in no way wished to undermine investigative crime reporting, but that such

how to be objective, how not to go too far with freedom of speech," Bajrami said. "The mistake Dita made was the photograph, name and address. I may not agree with how they wrote the article, but as journalists in Kosovo, we all support each other if we are attacked from the outside."

Bajrami asserted that the UN's closing of Dita was a politically motivated decision, designed to make the organization look like it was an influential authority in the region, still actively resolving contentious disputes.

"But this guy got killed and the UN goes back to the security council and screams 'ethnic violence'! But if they were so worried about ethnic violence, why weren't they out looking for those who have committed war crimes in the first place? But they were not. They were spending their resources closing down a newspaper with a circulation of 500. You have to understand how this looks to us."

Bajrami added that international experts can too easily overlook the effect that the brutal police and military campaign unleashed by the Milosevic regime has had on the Kosovar population, and that this will naturally shape the optic used by domestic journalists in approaching their reporting.

"We, our paper, of course we are against any kind of violence, but you have to understand, we are part of the society in which this happened, you cannot expect us to be completely neutral and to behave like a New York Times journalist out in the field in East Timor."



Agron Bajrami, editor at Koha Ditore

Though stressing that there were both good and bad UN representatives along with good and bad journalists, Bajrami concluded by expressing his displeasure with the nature of most international reporting. While some journalists may be technical experts in the same manner as the UN bureaucrats, the only ones, according to him, that can truly have a handle on the situation are those who have had field experience in the war-ravaged areas.

"Like I said, I will always hold a candle to the Reuters journalist who was killed in Sierra Leone...where there is a crisis and you actually go there and see what is going on on the ground. But I won't even shake hands with some guy who sits in his office and just writes editorials without ever being to the country and thinks he knows everything just because he works at CNN."

Course Evaluations Could Soon Be Available On-Line

BY ALISON BRUNETTE
News Reporter

Have you ever stopped to wonder what becomes of those course evaluations you fill out at the end of every semester in all your courses?

Students interested in the fate of their end-of-semester course evaluations have always been able to access the evaluations from the Redpath Library, but the time and patience required to sort through pages of raw data about each course and the professors that teach them, has prevented the vast majority of students from doing so.

But plans are in the works to make the results of course evaluations more accessible to students by making them available on line in a comprehensible format.

SSMU VP Academic Clara Péron has been involved in the planning committee

which has aimed to make course evaluations more useful to students.

"Making course evaluations more accessible will help students choose their classes, make professors more accountable, and it is a way for university administrators to measure teaching performance," said Péron.

The evaluations will not be applicable to new professors in the first two years of teaching at McGill, in order to grant them a certain amount of adjustment time, nor will written comments be available as they infringe on Quebec's strict privacy laws. Also, in order to maintain accuracy, the evaluations won't be counted if too few people fill them out. What will consistently be available are those questions which ask students to rank specific facets of the professors' performance on a 1-5 scale.

Richard Harris, physics professor and

chair of the working group on course evaluations, thinks that both students and professors are entitled to course evaluation information. But Harris warns that there are a number of problems which may arise from making this information public.

"It can get quite complicated with legalities," he explained. "Verbatim comments will not be available because that introduces problems to legal matters. We need to safeguard against mischievous intent and the possibility of professors suing for slander."

Harris believes the web is a good way to make the information available, however, he thinks that it is best to continue to conduct in-class evaluations in order to ensure that a large enough number of students actually complete the evaluations.

"We've lobbied from the beginning for a fully integrated system. Hopefully the course evaluations will be available on Saturn with

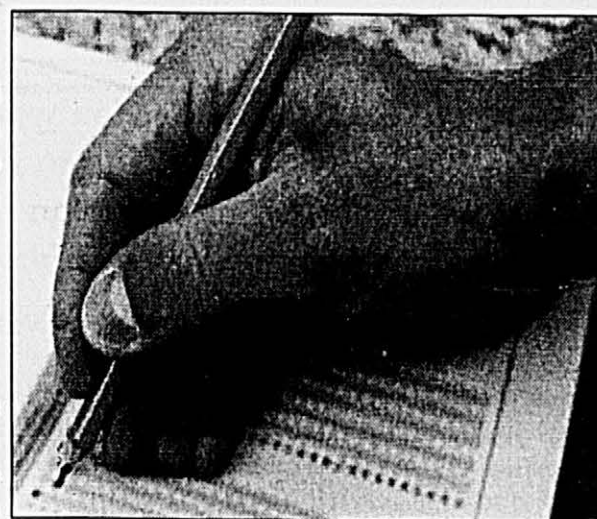
timetables, syllabus and registration," said Péron. "It was a fun project to work on because educational technology is symbolic of what the university can provide and we need to ask ourselves how we can use it more efficiently."

Ron Woo, a U3 Mining Engineering student, says that he would find accessing course evaluations very helpful in choosing classes and professors.

"Seeing how other students rated their

courses and their profs would help me make good decisions when I am picking courses, or when I have a choice of several professors for one course," he said.

"I think it would be a really good serv-



Celine Heinbecker

Might all those evaluations you fill out be useful some day?

11 Years After the Montreal Massacre

But December 6, 1989 is a day few Canadians will ever forget

BY CRISTINA CAMPISI
The McGill Daily

"You're all a bunch of feminists, and I hate feminists," Marc Lepine yelled on December 6, 1989, as he entered a classroom at the École Polytechnique of the Université de Montréal waving a gun in the air. After dividing the male and female students into two separate groups, Lepine opened fire, injuring 13 and killing 14.

All of the dead were women. He finally turned the gun on himself, leaving only a suicide note blaming women for the troubles in his life and in the world.

This year marks the 11th anniversary of this tragic event, certainly one of the most horrifying in modern Canadian history. It is because of the brutal misogyny of the act that it remains so striking and horrifying in our minds today. The killings of these young women turned a spotlight on the issue of violence against women, exciting women and men across the country to get involved and work for social change.

One such woman is Heidi Rathjen, who was at the École Polytechnique the night of the shootings, and managed to survive. One year after the event, she founded the Coalition for Gun Control, which lobbied the government to tighten its gun-control laws.

In 1995, her petitions were successful and the passage of Bill C-17 meant stricter controls on the possession and trafficking of guns.

Allan Rock, who at the time was federal minister of justice, was instrumental in the gun control legislation adopted following the massacre. Now, as the minister of health, he has been active in the men's movement to end violence against women.

"The massacre was a crucial moment when Canada lost its innocence, when we could no longer say that violence was elsewhere," said Rock at a recent fundraiser. "It opened up our eyes and ears and we became conscious of the violent world in which we live and of the immense problem of violence against women. December 6th is now a symbol of hope throughout Canada. This crisis marked a positive change in our outlook, in our courage and determination to address the problem. We have created laws that more effectively address the problem including gun control laws, and laws protecting the confidentiality of women who report cases of sexual assault."

Despite the concerted effort to address the problem of violence against women, some have questioned the approach being taken. Former Quebec premier Robert Bourassa spoke openly about his irritation that the massacre was being interpreted as a political, rather than

random, event. Gazette columnist George Bain has expressed similar frustration with the manner in which this tragedy has been remembered. According to Bain, a "madman's killing of 14 young women has been transformed into a symbol of something much larger," and Canadians were close to transforming "mourning into a sort of annual all-men-are-vile festival." Bain contended that the problem of violence applies to society as a whole, and thus any effort to stop violence against women specifically was unnecessary.

Sociology Professor Peta Tancred, and former Director of the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women (MCRTW), disagrees. She thinks that a failure to recognize the significance of this massacre, "individualizes and minimizes what is a really a huge social problem," and is itself an example of the deep-rooted and systemic nature of violence against women. "Even if [Lepine] was not in complete control of all faculties, there are many ways he could have expressed this resentment," said Tancred. "The fact that he chose to kill these women was not by chance, but was to him the most appropriate way to do so in a culture where men have inherited systemic power. Built into the male psyche is

an element of socialization which says that women are an acceptable target of violent acts."

Sarah Clarke, a U3 Political Science student at McGill, works at the Sexual Assault Centre at McGill and has been involved in organizing December 6th vigils in the past. She considers December 6th not only an example of how far women have come - they now have the opportunity to study in fields such as engineering from which they were denied access in the recent past - but also as a

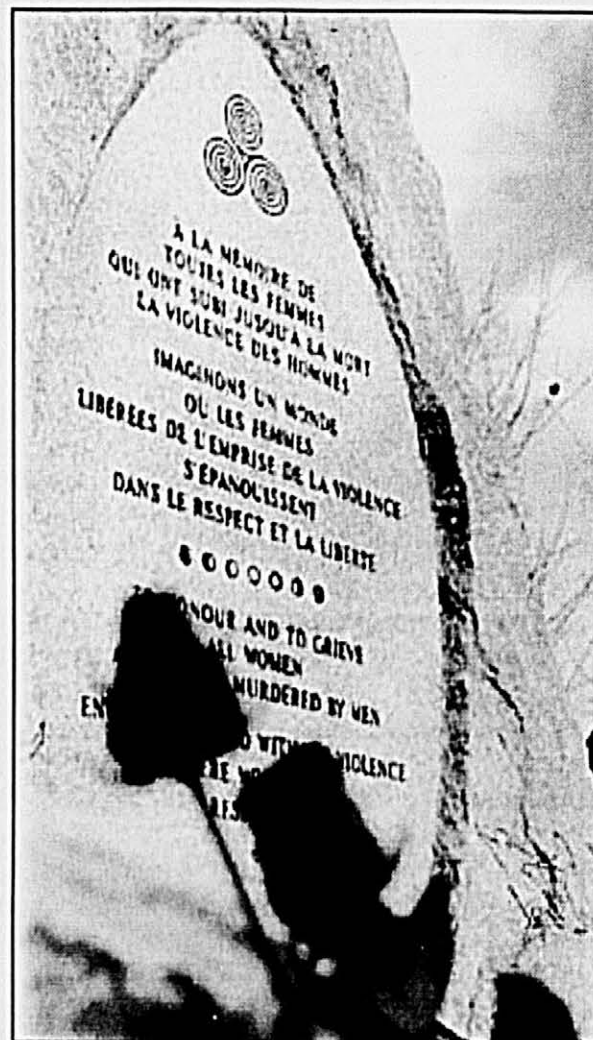
reminder of the great prevalence of violence against women that still exists.

"The only way things will change is by teaching women they are not lesser beings because once they believe this, men will be forced to agree and a greater balance of power will be reached," she said. In spite of an overwhelming existence of violence against women, Clarke thinks that many women do not identify with the efforts of feminists to address the problem. "The feminist movement is still in a backlash phase," she said. "Feminists are seen as trouble-makers who work to alter power structures and make big changes in society. It's hard to get anywhere when you're seen as a trouble-maker - especially for women who are still largely disadvantaged in the workplace - so it's easier for young women today to disassociate themselves with the movement."

"In order to be a part of the solution men must accept they have inherited greater power in virtue of their gender. It is true that institutions oppressive of women were not created by the men alive today, but that does not mean it is enough for men to bewail their existence," she added.

December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Violence Against Women. It is a day to remind ourselves of the thousands of Canadian women who have been, and continue to be the targets of abuse and violence. It must also be a time for women to recognize and celebrate the strength of women while considering how we can each take action to make change.

McGill's Women's Union will hold a vigil to commemorate the Montreal Massacre on December 6th, at 5:30 at Moyse Hall



Plaque honouring victims of violence against women.

Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University

Call for Nominations

PGSS Elections & Referenda

The nomination and petition period for PGSS elections and referenda is now open.

The nomination period ends at 12h00 February 7, 2001



All regular members returning for the 2000-01 academic year are eligible
Nominations require 50 signatures of members

Tout les membres de l'association qui reviendront pour l'année académique 2000-01
peuvent poser leur candidature. Les étudiants désirants se présenter devront
recueillir 50 signatures de membres de l'association

Elected positions

Executive Chairperson
External Affairs and Governmental Relations Coordinator
Finance Coordinator
Internal Affairs Coordinator
University and Academic Affairs Coordinator

Representative positions

Board of Governors
Masters Senator
Doctoral Senators

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE POSITIONS, CHECK OUT www.mcgill.ca/pgss

Referenda

Petitions for referenda on any question dealing with Society affairs may be made by members.
A petition of 50 signatures is required.

Tout les membres peuvent soumettre au référendum des question qui concernent l'association.
50 signatures d'appui doivent être recueillies.

Evolve ... Get involved!

The Daily commemorates the memories of the fourteen women who died needlessly on December 6, 1989 at École Polytechnique and all others who have been victims of violence.

Geneviève Bergeron

Hélène Colgan

Nathalie Croteau

Barbara Daigneault

Anne-Marie Edward

Maud Haviernick

Barbara Maria Klucznik

Maryse Laganier

Maryse Leclair

Anne-Marie Lemay

Sonia Pelletier

Michèle Richard

Annie St-Arneault

Annie Turcotte

Fall, 2000: A Semester in Review

The Daily takes a look back at the semester that was, plus the hot topics to stay tuned to in the months ahead

AUGUST

\$64-MILLION WINDELL

McGill kicked off the school year with a bang, after roping in the largest private donation to a post-secondary institution in Canadian history.

The \$64-million gift from Richard Tomlinson will go towards the creation of the Montreal Consortium for Brain Imaging Research, 6 research chairs, more than 40 endowed fellowships, library improvement, and scholarships.

At the time, The Daily called SSMU's actions both political and heavy-handed, while SSMU insisted that the decision to toss out The Daily had more to do with a need to begin renovations to the student centre basement right away. Nonetheless, renovations still have yet to begin.

RESIDENCES BURSTING AT THE SEAMS... AGAIN

In what has come to seem like an annual tradition, over 100 first-year students arrived in late August only to learn that, once again, McGill would be unable to honour its promise to put up every first-year in one of

leaving his post at the university to pursue a career as CEO of HBE Software Inc., a growing company started by a one-time student of Pennycook's.

CHAPTERS' CORPORATE WOES BRING OUT CRITICS OF MCGILL'S BOOKSTORE

Rumours of corporate turmoil at Chapters Inc. began in mid-summer after Broadview Press announced that it was placing McGill's bookstore on credit-hold after Chapters Inc., the retail book giant that manages McGill's store, had failed to pay a number of its bills. A number of other suppliers followed suit, leading many at McGill to question whether the campus store's links to the retail corporation could ever threaten the availability of books at McGill.

"I don't believe there will be any difficulties in terms of required books being in stock this time around," said Senate's bookstore committee chair, English professor Kerry McSweeney. "(But I imagine that McGill's administration would be very concerned about these issues.)"

STUDENT PRESS UNDER ASSAULT, STUDENTS SAY

A handful of student activists calling themselves the Save The Daily Coalition made their presence felt in early September as they campaigned to protest SSMU's treatment of The Daily. They began posting banners at McGill's Roddick Gates and passing around petitions in support of the student paper.

Meanwhile, the Red Herring, a long-time SSMU-funded humour magazine, learned that it would likely lose its offices as well as its funding, following an issue last semester which was highly critical of several SSMU executives. SSMU defended the move saying the Herring had failed to meet basic standards of quality.

MUSLIM STUDENTS STILL WITHOUT PRAYER SPACE

After prayer space in the Birks building was shut down in order to make room for professors' offices, Muslim students were left without a place to practice their faith on campus, earlier this fall.

"There are over 1000 Muslim students on campus and the problem will only get bigger if a solution is not found," said Mahmoud Essam

Hallak, a PhD student at McGill who has been active in McGill's Muslim Students' Association.

CAMPUS CAFES TAKEN OVER BY MCGILL

SSMU cried foul this fall after learning that the university would be taking control of two student-run cafeterias.

"There seems to be a growing trend that anytime student associations are successful in one area, the university wants to take it away from them," said SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak, complaining of the financial implications that the university's decision would have on student groups.

'ZOOM OUT,' CONCORDIA STUDENTS SAY

Concordia students voted to ask the university not to renew a contract with Zoom Media, the marketing company responsible for washroom advertising at Concordia and most other Quebec universities, including McGill. Administrators at Concordia subsequently agreed to honour the students' vote and scrap its deal with Zoom.

"Students have spoken and reclaimed this public space to show who this university is really for. This space is not for corporate advertising, it's for students," said Concordia Student Union President Rob Green following the vote.

ANTI-ABORTION ADS REAR THEIR HEAD ON CAMPUS

McGill students and others across the country called an ad from Montreal Pro-Life in the McGill Tribune, a dan-

gerous foray for the pro-life movement on to university campuses, The Daily reported on Sept. 18.

"I don't think this sort of thing has a place in a student paper. The Tribune is supposed represent SSMU," said U3 Women's Studies student Amy Twigg. "I don't think they should want to be represented in that way or send that sort of message."

MASSIVE FEDERAL SURPLUS NO HELP FOR EDUCATION

Finance Minister Paul Martin announced on September 19 that Canada posted a whopping \$12.3-billion budgetary surplus for the fiscal year of 1999-2000, but critics were upset with how the money was spent. While the Liberal government decided to use the surplus to make the largest debt paydown in the country's history, there was no boost whatsoever of provincial transfer payments that could have helped fund education or health care.

Representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students questioned whether Martin had been overly tight-fisted in his original budget allotments, fully aware that revenues would be as high as they were.

"To somehow suggest that this [mini-budget] is a big surprise, is just ridiculous," said Michael Temelini, a CFS spokesperson.



Allo-Stop driven out of business in Ontario

ALLO-STOPPED

For the first time in close to 20 years, McGill students travelling frequently to Ottawa or Toronto would have to do so without Allo-Stop. The popular ride-sharing service was kicked off Ontario roads, after hearings by the province's Highway Transport Board. While the Montreal-based service continues to operate in Quebec, its founder, Claire Patenaude said the Ontario ruling would hurt the business as well as cash-strapped students.

"All of a sudden, you go to visit family in Toronto and split the gas and you're committing a felony," Patenaude told The Daily this summer. "I've lost more than 20 per cent of my business and students have lost an inexpensive way of getting around."

PRIVATE MCGILL ON HOLD

Students returned in August to learn that McGill College International, a proposal to make McGill the home of a US-style, for-profit, private liberal arts college, has been scrapped following a vote by professors in the Faculty of Arts.

A motion to begin a feasibility study that would have explored the MCI's potential to attract students willing to pay upwards of \$30,000 per year in tuition, was narrowly defeated by Arts professors in May.

But Economics professor Chris Ragan, one of the MCI proposal's biggest proponents, said that he still was not ready to give up on the controversial private program.

"If [McGill Principal] Bernard Shapiro said tomorrow that he's still interested, I'd probably grab the ball and run with it," Ragan told The Daily.

DAILY DEBACLE RAGES ON

A court battle against SSMU and McGill, initiated by The Daily and Le Débat Français after the two student papers were locked out of their student centre offices, continued right through the months of August and September.

SEPTEMBER

TUITION KEEPS ON CLIMBING

Student leaders began taking issue with yet another round of fee hikes at McGill, in Quebec, and across the country. Here at McGill, ancillary fees climbed by about \$150 across the board, while full-time out-of-province students are being made to pay \$420 more than they were last year.

In an interview with The Daily, Aaron Windsor, chair of McGill's Post-Graduate Student Society, accused McGill administrators of disregarding the impact of fee hikes on accessibility. "The university is being absolutely greedy," said Windsor.

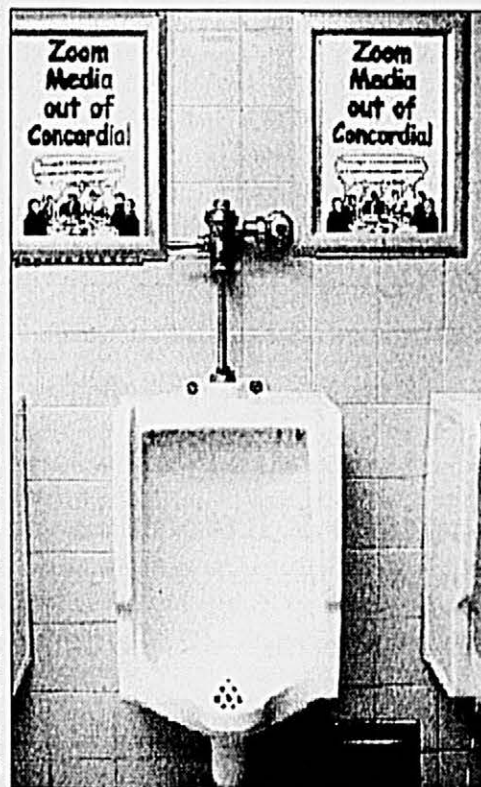
MCGILL ADMINISTRATOR QUILTS TO PURSUE IT CAREER

McGill's Vice-Principal of Information and Technology Morty Yalovsky announced in early September that he would be



Muslim students make the most of limited prayer space in the Shatner building

Brian O'Keefe



Zoom gets the boot at Concordia

Simon Rebnovich

NOT-SO-GOLDEN KEY?

The Golden Key National Honour Society came under fire in late September, when students began to question just where their \$80 membership fees to the Society were going. The Society defended its scholarship program, however, saying that membership not only made students eligible for scholarships, it also gave them valuable opportunities to network with private sector giants like Ford, Motorola, and Merck Frost.

But some students weren't convinced. "I really wonder, how much of this money goes to benefit the students directly?" said U1 Sociology student Todd Ferguson.

MCGILL, NEWSCORP GET HITCHED

Universitas-21, a new, online university begun by media mogul Rupert Murdoch's Newscorp, will bear McGill's name, students learned this fall. McGill proudly announced in September that it was one of three Canadian universities that would put its name on programs offered by Universitas-21, if Newscorp forked over a few bucks for it.

But critics said at the time that McGill should have no place in the business of private, for-profit education, particularly when its name was being put on curriculum that the university doesn't even get to approve.

"Rupert Murdoch has been notorious worldwide for firing journalists who don't agree with his worldview. What does that say about the potential for academic freedom under Newscorp?" said David Robison, public policy director at the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

SEXUAL ASSAULT HELPLINE EVICTED FROM ITS OFFICES

The staff of the Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Helpline returned from the summer to find that the Faculty of Arts had taken away their office space. The group was concerned that people who were calling for their service would be discouraged to find their calls left unanswered, preventing them from calling in the future.

"It's terrible to know that there are callers who we cannot help, who are still out there trying to call," said Sarah Curry, a representative of The Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society.

STUDENTS VOICE DISPLEASURE WITH SSMU

Students were given their first opportunity of the year on Sept. 28 to air their grievances at a SSMU open meeting. Twenty students showed up at the event, raising concerns about the lack of transparency in the Students' Society's handling of decision making.

SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak responded to the students' concerns by saying, "I can't really logically argue against you. But I think that there's a fair need for confidentiality. And that's all I can say to explain it."

JUDGE RULES AGAINST DAILY

The Quebec Superior Court ruled on Oct. 8 that the McGill Daily and Le Débat Français would have to give up their offices of 30 years, making way for SSMU renovations. The ruling followed months of acrimony between SSMU and The Daily that came to a head on August 4, when the Students' Society executives changed the locks on the student paper's offices. Since the lockout, The Daily, SSMU and McGill University, which was also named in the civil case, spent time in and out of courtrooms. The case also earned the attention of the national media and students across campus.

NEW LAW THREATENS STREET PROTESTS

Provincial legislation enacted early in the month

made it illegal for people to block traffic in order to supposedly make the streets safer for motorists and pedestrians. Student leaders, however, said that the law would effectively allow police to break up peaceful demonstrations and infringe on rights to freedom of assembly.

"This law [is intended] to outlaw street demonstrations," said Phil Ilijevsky, Chair of the Quebec wing of the Canadian Federation of Students. He said that the new law is not about safety at all, but rather an attempt to prevent large demonstrations and give local police the authority to intervene.

Sarah Lazarovic

INSUFFICIENT PROMO FOR MSF OPT-OUT

SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee's failure to advertise the opt-out period for the McGill Students Fund was the subject of ire at the start of October. A handful of students complained that they had not opted-out because they didn't know the dates during which they could opt-out of the \$76-per-student fee that has been a source of controversy for the last two years.

"When there is a matter of interest to all students, they do not publicize it. There is never enough publicity for these kinds of things. It is for students themselves to make these choices, it is not for SSMU to make it for them," said François Tanguay-Renaud, a campus activist who contested the MSF's introduction two years ago.

OCTOBER**LABOUR UNREST LEADS TO STRIKE FEARS**

A union local representing 400 residence staff, cleaners, and service workers announced that they had just delivered a strike mandate and would begin applying pressure tactics to respond to what they called McGill's failure to honour its commitment to the workers.

"We don't have a choice but to take action," said Pierre Champagne, negotiations representatives for McGill's Printing Services. "We're at a dead end with McGill. They want everything and they don't want to negotiate."

JUDGE'S RECUSAL STILL SOUGHT IN ADMISSIONS SUIT

The wrongful dismissal suit of Peggy Sheppard, a former McGill Admissions Director who claims that she was fired when she wouldn't give in to administrators' demands that she let unqualified students in the backdoor, took another step in mid-October. That's when Sheppard went to court to appeal a decision not to recuse the judge on the case, Justice Jean-Guy Dubois. Dubois was a federal Liberal MP at the same time as Robert Kaplan, the former Solicitor-General, whose son, according to Sheppard, was let in the backdoor because of his father's place as a prominent Canadian political figure.

MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS COME TO CAMPUS

McGill students got a small taste of the conflict raging between Israel and Palestine, when rallies by Jewish and Palestinian students, as well as an Amnesty International-led vigil for peace brought the issue alive at McGill. While some called simply for peace and others took sides in the dispute, many students and faculty across campus quickly

Simon Tudor

declared themselves armchair diplomats in the dispute that is still raging in the Middle East.

CONCORDIA'S STUDENT UNION ROCKED BY FRAUD

Close to \$200,000 was pilfered from Concordia Student Union this fall, it was learned in Oct. 18. Upon the discovery and a leak to the press, charges were quickly laid in what many said was almost certainly an inside job.

FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER SCRAPS MONTREAL TALK

Paul Martin's handlers suddenly cancelled a speaking event at Concordia on Oct. 18, citing security concerns and Martin's busy schedule in conjunction with last month's Montreal Summit of the G-20 globalization body. The announcement came the same day that Martin presented a federal mini-budget which, it was widely agreed, offered up little for education.

"Paul Martin is afraid of students," said Phil Ilijevsky of the Canadian Federation of Students' Quebec arm. "I guess he was afraid someone was going to pie



Brie O'Keefe

Black Student Network members aired their grievances at an SSMU Open Meeting last month

him or throw chocolate milk at him... He was afraid that, going into a federal election, he'd get bad press."

G-20 PROTESTS DRAW INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON MONTREAL

Downtown Montreal was practically overcome by anti-globalization protests on Oct. 23 and 24, as activists from all over descended on the city to greet diplomats from across the globe.

In all 39 arrests were made, but the protests were widely hailed as effective in sending the activists' message about globalization.

"The nature of the representatives who are sitting on the G-20 is going to make it impossible for anyone to live up to anything progressive. When you have a representation that's made up entirely of bank managers and finance ministers of the rich world and they're in control of things, I can't see it coming to any beneficial ends," said Reid Allaway, who organized an on-campus speak-out against the G-20.

NOVEMBER**FEDERALIST FALL-GUY STÉPHANE DION GOES ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE DAILY**

The federal Liberals' Unity Minister Stéphane Dion sat down with The Daily in mid-November to discuss issues in Canadian federalism, the Quebec question, and the then-imminent federal election.

Dion took the opportunity to highlight his sense that federalism has never worked better in Canada.

"We have respected all the jurisdiction-

ns of the provinces, we ask for the same respect for our own responsibilities to Canadians. This is the best approach everywhere, with the economy, with social policies, and with relations with other countries."

CBA: It's BAAAAAAACK!

Rumours of an imminent cold beverage deal with Coke are no longer things of the past, students learned last month. Reports emerged early in November that McGill was once again at the table with Coke, despite an April student referendum in which students turned out in record numbers to reject a similar deal.

"This deal sounds like the same one we heard about last year," said Phil Gohier, one of last semester's anti-Coke campaigners. "McGill just doesn't seem to care about a referendum last year that said we don't want McGill signing deals with private partners like Coke."

RACIAL INSENSITIVITY CHARGED IN SSMU'S HANDLING OF BSN CONSTITUTION

Black Student Network members accused SSMU executives of racial insensitivity following what the BSN called the executives' rejection of a BSN constitution that referred to James McGill as slaveowner and noted the socioeconomic disadvantages faces by Blacks in society. SSMU officials denied the claims, saying that they had not rejected the constitution and that they simply wanted to ensure that the constitution went through all the necessary channels.

But BSN's Akin Alaga said he wasn't convinced. "We are absolutely furious. We're tired of putting up with this kind of thing from SSMU," said Alaga.

PROUD TO BE FOURTH?

The annual return of Maclean's magazine annual university rankings was once again greeted with mixed response when McGill maintained its standing as fourth overall among universities of its kind.

"This year's rankings show McGill has definitely held its ground," said Ann Johnston, the Maclean's editor that has overseen the rankings for the last nine years.

MCLABOUR GETS MCORGANIZED

McDonald's workers at the chain's downtown Peel St. location became the first in the fast-food chain's checkered history, to launch a successful union drive when, on Nov. 23, Quebec's labour commissioner granted the workers certification.

"I think it's a great victory for youth in Quebec. [But] the real victory will be when we have signed a collective agreement," said Sebastien Clun, one of a trio of teen-aged students behind the union drive.

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Shatner B-03, We Hardly Knew Ye

Are we sad because we're leaving this decrepit, wonderful old office or because we have a student government without a coherent plan?

editorial



The basement of the William Shatner University Center doesn't really seem like a great place to be. It's poorly lit, with the kind of yellow fluorescent lighting that gives one's skin a sickly tint. The climate control is tenuous at best. It is often necessary to stack bound volumes of Dailys on the vents to warm it up in the middle of summer, and wear shorts and sandals to the office in the middle of winter. As well, the occasional four-legged friend pays us a visit from the sub-basement.

But these imperfections are not on the minds of Daily editors today, as we finish packing up the contents of Shatner B-03. The Daily will be moving into smaller, more expensive space in the basement of Shatner after it has been renovated for a SuperGert's and other millennial adjustments. In the interim, we will be based in the coach house next to Thomson House, at 3650 McTavish, and room 626 in New Chancellor Day Hall (see map). These locations are far from ideal, as we have to split up our offices. Our phone and email addresses will remain the same, though, and we will be within spitting distance of Moot Court, which is a dubious honour in itself.

During this transition period in Chancellor Charles Dewey Day Hall, we will unfortunately be reducing our schedule to come out once a week in English, once a week in French, for a short time. It is true that this will make our moniker even more incongruent with our publication habits and we welcome any snide comments you might have. Thankfully, however, with the



Pierre-Alain Parfond

advent of the "Internet" and The McGill Daily website, the days of daily Daily are almost with us again. What a dilly! At any rate, as soon as we gain our bearings, we aim to be back to our normal schedule.

The Daily has been based in Shatner (formerly the Student Union building) for over 30 years. Most of us have just been there for a few of those. While we could certainly imagine more comfortable office space, beggars can't be choosers and we all have a soft spot for this little corner of campus. And while the manner in which we have arranged our move has been less than ideal, we are still conscious of our need to go elsewhere, albeit temporarily, to allow Shatner to get a bit of a shine job and some 21st century styling.

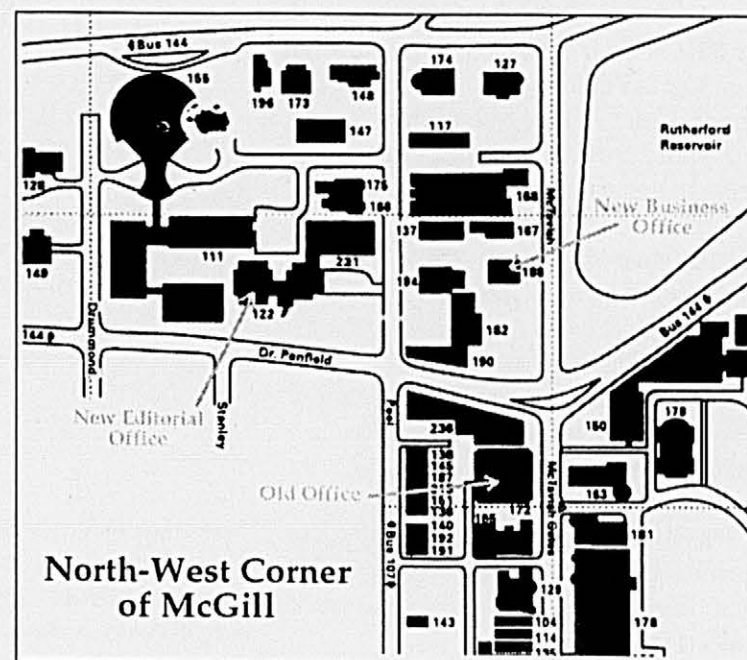
We knew this day would come at some point. If we could go back and change some of the way we dealt with our eviction, we would. We would not, however, have shied away from taking SSMU to court. When they changed the locks on our door - not TravelCuts, not The McGill Tribune, nor any other basement tenant - it was an act of arrogance. We could have ignored it,

but then we would not have come out on time. It was a difficult decision, but we stand by it.

In court, SSMU's lawyer said, "As soon as this is settled, we'll have jackhammers in tomorrow." The deadline for us to move out was December 5th. Now, SSMU has said

that the construction won't start until the beginning of January. And construction that was supposed to take a month, is likely to go on - if the timetable on previous projects is to be considered - until the end of the school year. Who knows when our new offices will be ready? Certainly not the SSMU executives who have been talking about their fictional plans for the last six months.

Whatever the circumstances of our departure, it is with dewy eyes that we bid adieu to our little foothold on campus. As we watch the flickering fluorescent lights fade for the last time on our little journalistic concrete bunker, we'll be saying goodbye not only for ourselves. The three decades of aspiring writers, editors, activists, unicyclists, doctors, anthropologists, politicians, boulevardiers and others who have entered and exited this institution's office will be waving farewell with us. The space will be obliterated, reduced to dust, but in the end, it doesn't really matter. The McGill Daily is not a pile of rubble. It is living and breathing, in your hands. See you after the break.



hyde park



BY AARON DE MAISONNEUVE-RAML

In response to Simon Nakonechy's disastrous account of Québécois culture (Nov. 27), future surveyors should take into consideration these minor suggestions.

First, the McGill ghetto is not an appropriate cross section of Quebec society. Secondly, the highly Anglophone Paramount cinema is quite possibly the worst location to use as your chief example of Québécois culture. In fact, if you were to

simply listen to your "Fubu-clad Brooklyn-wannabes" you would find that over 90 per cent of these youths are not Québécois at all. For you to find a reliable source of the culture, you would need to simply force yourself to move away from McGill by more than a couple of blocks. Try visiting Montreal's museums, theatres, festivals, small clubs and markets. Venture off into residential and small commercial districts and sample the true life of the Québécois.

You could even try taking a visit to Montréal's French CEGEPs. I have spent time in several of these places and found a large un-Americanized cultural base. Then, if you are truly "adventurous" perhaps you could even visit such amazing culturally aware places as Quebec City, Valleyfield, St. Jean or Mont-Tremblant. You may find there is much you have over-

looked in Quebec's rich culture, if you are just willing to actually experience it. Secondly, I would like to respond to Nakonechy's view that Quebec, to catch up economically, should capitulate its interest to the "politically dominant" Ontario. Well, if you follow his logic, I guess it's time that the self-righteously jealous Anglo-Canadians just give in and sell themselves out to the United States, since the US politically and economically dominates North America. Thirdly, I would like to remind him that my family's Québécois ancestors were well established when the "land-grubbing" British placed their flag upon Quebec. Je me souviens.

Finally, sovereignty is not dead. Québec's economy is growing less dependent on Canada. Youth support for sovereignty has been growing, if you are willing

to look outside the McGill campus. Also, the more Anglo-Canadians continue to try to push Québécois to just accept "your ways" the more they will resent you. Quebec may choose it needs to "Americanize" in some areas but it looks like it may just choose to do so without you.

As for our "dictator" Bouchard, look at his trade missions and diplomacy and what it has done for Quebec in comparison to Chrétien's great array of blunders. It may seem like whining to you, but to many Québécois it is so much more. They have dedicated their lives to fighting for the rights of their nation because it goes much deeper than "a cross somewhere in the cold hard ground." It is their language, their culture and their way of life.

Vive le Québec Libre!

Distinctly Québécois

letters



REZ NOT AUSCHWITZ

It would be nice of you to remind you conveniently anonymous columnist "Fembot" that there is absolutely no correlation between the systematic and bureaucratic extermination of a race of people and the inability of a group of well-fed rich kids (at an upper-class university in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, no less) to obtain cake and juice at the same time.

While the remainder of her column is simply irrelevant, the description of dessert portions in residence as "nazi-style rationing" displays a certain total misunderstanding (or total disregard for) the greatest crime against humanity of the century.

J. B. Staniforth
U3

GO BLOMME!

I am writing this letter to commend the NDP candidate for Ville-Marie-Westmount,

Willy Blomme. To think that someone my age, at my university, is representing a major party in a major riding is not only impressive but inspiring. Furthermore, Blomme was able to garner almost two thousand votes, beating out even the Canadian Alliance! At the rate she's going, there's no doubt in my mind that we will see Willy Blomme in the House of Commons one day.

Emile Amzallag
U1 Physiology

HOW ABOUT SOME CRIME-BUSTING TIPS?

While I commend The Daily for publishing an article addressing the problem of crime in the McGill community, I strongly urge the paper to take it one step further. The police officer interviewed for the article said that awareness and prevention are the most effective tools to lower crime rates in the area.

The Daily has taken the first step in this process, raised awareness. I would like to see a follow up article, or even a complete edition, advising students how to take preventative measures against being the victim of a crime. I am interested in finding out how one can protect his/her home if s/he is away from it all day. Yet an even greater service would be to provide your readers with tips about dealing with a

potentially violent situation. But please do not offer up the remedy of staying in well lit places and avoiding late night walks alone. One step you might take is contact the Women's Union, who earlier in the semester had to cancel a self-defense course because the enrollment was too low.

Let's admit as a community that crime and acts of random violence, sexual and other, do occur. Instead of denying it or succumbing to it let's make it our goal to educate ourselves in defense techniques so we can confidently exist in our own communities. As university students we all recognize the importance of advancing our own knowledge in order to better navigate our adult lives.

Let us go beyond education as a mere advancement of the intellect and include the ability to protect our physical autonomy, which we can only do in our daily lives if we are able to defend ourselves. I challenge the Daily and the McGill community to accept reality and respond to it.

Rachel Charlop-Powers
UO Arts Student (from the Bronx)

... AND NOW, SOME CRIME-BUSTING TIPS

First, I'd like to thank The McGill Daily for an insightful article clearing up the misconception that crime is rising in the Ghetto. I want to emphasise the point that we must establish the neighbourhood as not just the "Student Ghetto," but rather the "Students' Ghetto." As its primary residents, students need to assume part of the responsibility of making the area a safer place to live.

To that end, I'd like to remind everyone of a few important contacts and resources relevant to student safety:

1. Of course, don't hesitate to call 911 in case of an emergency.
2. If it's not an emergency, or you're just not sure if it's important enough to report, it's best to err on the side of safety and call the police non-emergency line at 280-2222.
3. If you think you have information that can help solve a crime, please call Info-Crime (Crimestoppers) at 393-1133. Calls are anonymous.
4. On campus, McGill Security can help you with any emergency. Simply press the big red button on the emergency phones with the blue-lights, or call 398-3000.
5. Students walking late from the library - or anywhere else on the Island of Montreal - can avail of Walksafe from 8pm to 12am Sunday to Wednesday, or 8pm to 2am Thursday to Saturday. Just call 398-2498. You should also be aware of the Night Route, a well-lit, well-trafficked path you can follow when on campus - visit the Safety Commission webpage (<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/safety>) for a map.

With exams and last-minute assignments coming up, your personal safety might be one of the last things on your mind. That said, the last thing you'd want would be the additional stress and worry brought on by crime - you can protect your safety and your sanity by taking a few simple precautions: check out the Safety Commission webpage to learn more!

Vincent Escanlar
Safety Commissioner
Microbiology and Immunology U2

more letters on page 14

John Ortved. The Man. The Myth. The Art Dummy

More Smarmy Punditry

There is a bear in Thailand known as the sun bear, sometimes called the dog bear. There are approximately six hundred of these bears left in the wild. They are about the size of a dog and are regularly domesticated, which is leading to their extinction as parents are killed so that the young bear can be taken into captivity. These bears are viciously territorial, despite the small amount of territory they call their own. While grizzlies will consider miles of forest their turf, dog bears might call a single tree home. Caution to anyone, especially rival bears, even of the same family, who dare to trespass underneath said tree. The bear will leap from the tree and attack its enemy, barking and biting with jaws that can rip apart coconuts.

The bears survive on bugs and plants. They stand easily on their hind legs and are sometimes enslaved into travelling circuses when they must ride bicycles and perform tricks for the remainder of their lives. The bears are hunted by poachers (looking to gain from the lucrative homeopathic medicine trade flourishing in Asia) and overall assholes.

I learned this last Monday night on the Discovery Channel. Then I turned off the TV. The bears were far more interesting than the election and nature shows calm me better than any anti-psychotic ever could. I didn't need drugs. I was calm like a caterpillar. I claimed Chrétien would earn himself a minority government; I was off by a few. Despite my error in the numbers, the results are about as shocking as a management student wearing a McGill insignia. Whatever, status quo, lack of inspiration, etc; you've read it all before.

This was going to be my resignation letter. I was going to resign all pissed off because the government is made up of liars and fascists and I was feeling too damaged by this crushing reality to go on writing, but then I had a drink and felt all better. This election has shown me a whole new level of blasé politics and boredom of the democratic system. I was going to write my letter of resignation and move to Haiti, or Jerusalem; someplace where the political situation is a little more involving. But I have exams next week, so instead I wrote the following letters:

Dear Jean Chrétien,

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent victory at the polls. Here's hoping for five long years of ineffectual leadership racked with lies and irresponsible decisions. I also hope you do not die of old man cancer, or of the disease that cripples politicians such as yourself, what's it called? Oh yes, justice.

I paid GST on this paper,
John Ortved

Dear Stockwell Day,

Hey Stock, where's your God now? Now that you've lost, you'll have lots more time for working out, riding jet skis and spread-

ing hate. My only regret in your loss is not being able to organize a referendum on whether or not you should spend twenty-four hours in the general population of a prison, on a native reserve.

Zieg heil,
John Ortved

PS. I think about you and Jesus doing it while William Jennings Bryan watches.

Dear Joe Clark,

I feel really badly for you and your party. Not in the way I feel sorry for Ralph Nader's Green party, more in the way that I'd feel badly if an ugly rat was dying painfully and slowly, but wasn't quite dead yet and was going to be stinking up my apartment for the next five years, uttering small, but still audible cries from the corner in which I'd swept him into. You mumble like you're Richard Nixon and when you speak, you're as moving as a high-school actress giving it all while she lip-synchs to Britney Spears.

Hit you one more time and you're down for the count,
John Ortved

Dear Alexa McDonnough

I don't like your voice. Not even a little bit.
Please become mute,
John Ortved

Dear Gilles Duceppe,

You look like the guy who sells Glad garbage bags on TV. Are you the same guy? Are you sure? It's a good thing you are such a predictable, humourless, tiresome robot (you're no Bender, you're not even Al Gore), otherwise men like you might actually matter. You're like an armless golfer trying to drive a 400-yard hole-in-one with your shoe as a club.

Vive le Quebec Libre,
John Ortved

Dear Art Dummy,

You are a bitter, cheap little pundit and your redundant cynicism is matched only by your inanity as a writer. You point out problems like you're Christ, but offer not one solution. It is not the political system that's fucked up and boring, it's people like you. If you had any balls, you'd get involved instead of throwing stones from such a safe distance. You're a Napoleon without any real army and we Germans scoff at your attempted charges.

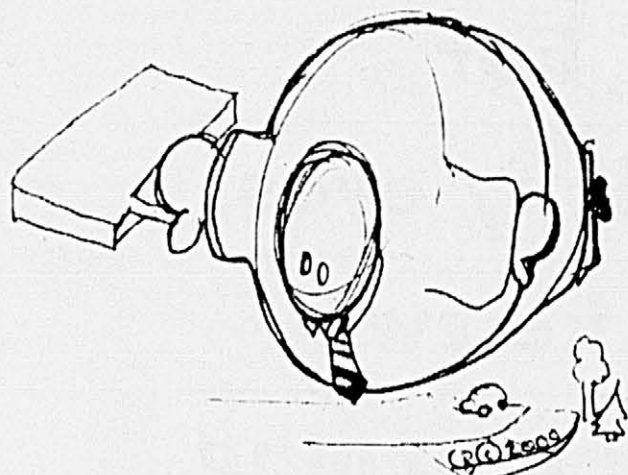
Alt Viedersehn,
John Ortved

PS. Nice hat there, Buckaroo Bitch

The Art Dummy has been appearing on Thursdays since the fall of 1999. There is no indication that this will stop anytime soon.

LIFE...(IT FELT SPONGY)

by Claire Blanchet



BILLY HAD BECOME A SUCCESSFUL ATTORNEY DESPITE SCARS LEFT BY HIS CRUEL CHILDHOOD NICKNAME: "THE BLIMP".

SNAPSHOT TAKEN THE MOMENT LITTLE BILLY DECIDED TO CONVERT TO JUDAISM.



comics@mcgilldaily.com

letters



EMERGING PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED

I write to praise Aaron Maté for his article 'Israel and Palestine: a perspective on the conflict.' Mr. Maté has displayed his emerging professionalism by going beyond easily accessible stereotypes about the Palestinians. He has done a marvelous job explaining to McGill students that the conflict existing in the region is due to robbing the Palestinians of their basic human rights, freedom and self determination.

Once again I will say how impressed I was by the writer's efforts to tell the truth. No human being will ever accept to live under an occupation and Palestine is no exception.

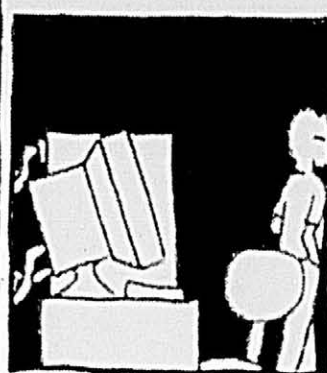
Rasha Ayouby
Graduate Student

ISRAEL MISREPRESENTED

I am disgusted by Aaron Maté's one-sided article about the situation in Israel. The author flagrantly omits many key facts regarding Israel's history. Particularly outrageous is that he discusses the wars of 1948 and 1967 and the subsequent negative consequences for the Arabs, failing to mention who initiated both wars. Surely, this information could be of significant use to the average, uninformed reader. Apparently, the author believes otherwise. Furthermore, he casually neglects the fact that, Israel, only a few hours old, was attacked by five Arab armies. He instead writes, "war ensued."

In reference to the 1967 war, the author mysteriously fails to mention that the united Arab armies, including Jordan, started the war and lost it. If you look at the situation realistically, Arabs have as much moral

STRANGE WORLD by John Paul Koning



authority to claim East Jerusalem as post-WWII Germany had to Poland. I find the author's omissions to be a particularly dangerous example of revisionism, which has no place within the walls of a university.

M. Connory
UO Management

KEEP AN EYE ON UNIONS

Congratulations to the workers of the Peel St. McDonald's for getting it together to certify a union. Unfortunately, those who see this as a harbinger of major change coming to labour practices in the service sector are mistaken. Here's why:

Revolving-door hiring practices in the service industry make it easy for employers to flood the job-site with new, more quiescent workers. This practice, coupled with the industry's high turnover rate, make it easy for the company to engineer a decertification once the employees' initial sense of solidarity is thus diluted.

Unions themselves have scant incentive to aggressively court the service sector. The dues they will collect from minimum wage workers are meager compared to employees in the traditional, heavy industry. What's more, the deep pockets of McDonald's et al ensure a prolonged and costly legal process for any certification.

The Peel St. McDonald's union is almost certainly going to go the way of its predecessors in Longueuil and Squamish, BC unless changes are made to Canadian labour codes which take into account the nature of service sector employment prac-

tices. Perhaps what is needed is a nationwide corporate minimum wage that is indexed to a company's profits (hello, NDP, are you out there?).

Currently, a new generation of leftists remain smitten with romantic images of heroic factory and mine workers. These are dying industries in Canada and those who continue to work in them are making more than a fair wage. If there is to be a future for organized labour in this country, it will have to be forged in the McDonald's and Wal-Marts. Work in these places, if not as dangerous, is certainly as oppressive and badly-paid as the factories of yester-year.

Jeff Roberts
B.A. Student

THE TRUTH UNVEILED

I was very delighted to read such an

informative, interesting and unbiased article as that of Aaron Mate entitled "Israel and Palestine: A perspective on the conflict" published in McGill Daily's 27th November edition. For the past two months, the Arab, Palestinian and Muslim communities have been bombarded with accusations and prejudicial racist articles published by most, if not all, the local newspapers including student ones, to the extent that they have become immune, if not numb to these accusations. The amount of intellectually impaired and racist junk that has been published lately left us wondering if there was any place for the truth to be unveiled. Does anyone really care to know the other side of the story? Does anyone feel like digging deeper than the recycled, convenient arguments which only purported to blame the victim? It seems like Aaron Mate was one of the very few who dared to face reality

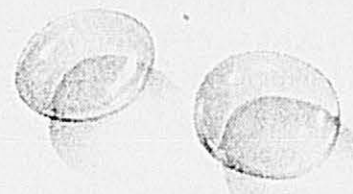
and speak out loud. His article was very informative, well-documented and it discussed the core issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I would like to thank Mate for bringing out the reality of the humanitarian tragedy of the Palestinian people, and thank the McGill Daily for publishing such an honest work. Discovering the other side of the story takes a bit of knowledge in the Western world we're living in. Facing the truth takes a bit of courage, accepting this reality takes a bit of wisdom, changing it takes a lot of strength, all of which Aaron Mate seems to be endowed with.

Lena El-Malak
Law - Nat IV

Letters always welcomed at letters@mcgilldaily.com. Also, fruitcakes are never welcome. Candy is.

But now we have to work in this tiny little office and we just don't know if we will make it. We'll make it. Yeah. We'll be fine. Don't worry about us. Kick ass.

**For
healthy eyes,
take two
every morning.**



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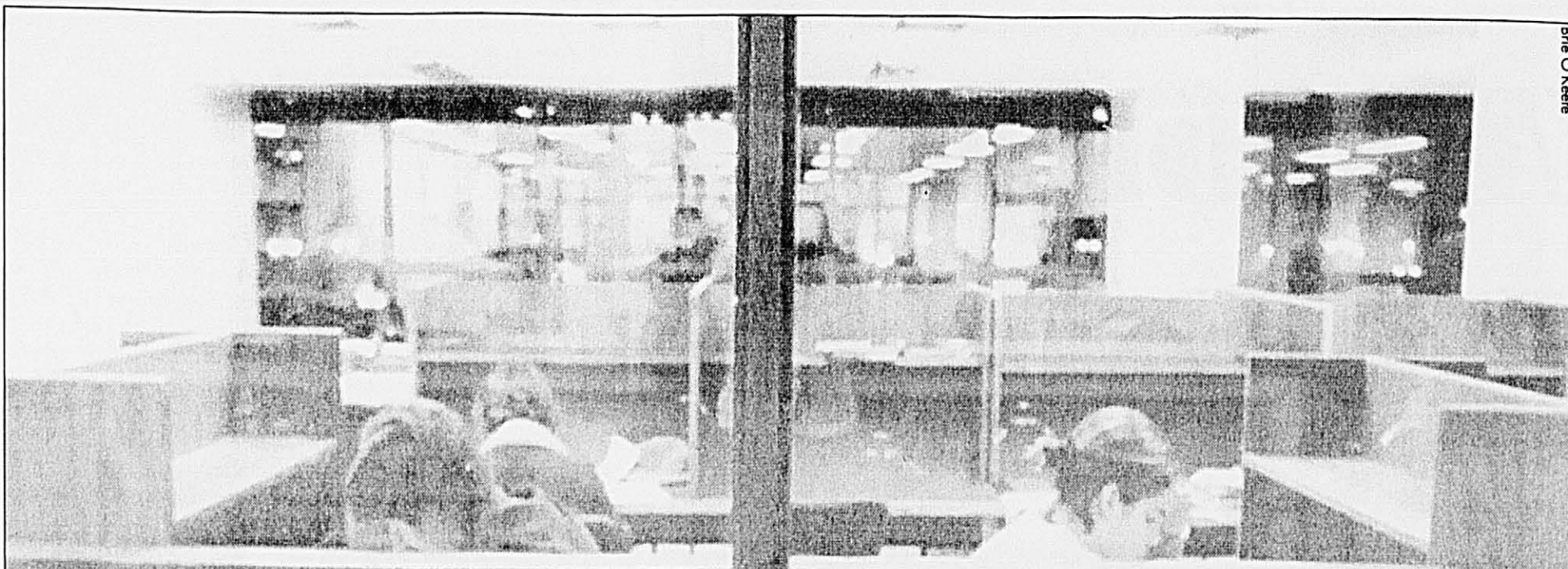
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Brie O'Keefe

When You'd Rather Do Absolutely Anything than Open that Book

Procrastination is a way of life for many students, but is there really anything wrong with that?

BY BEN ERRETT
The McGill Daily

Exams are just around the corner, and chances are that your bedroom is the cleanest it's been all semester. That's certainly the case for Ryan Allen, a McGill law student and self-proclaimed professional procrastinator.

Allen recently had a paper due on Monday at 3 p.m. He spent Saturday mulling over the topic, until he realized that a trip to Business Depot was necessary to stock up on the necessary office supplies to tackle the assignment. This expedition was followed by a complete rearrangement of the furniture in his room and thorough scrubbing of the bathroom floor. Sunday was spent looking out the window from his desk, until he realized he needed to take a walk to clear his mind. He managed to drag a neighbour over for a few beers, then smoked and read P.G. Wodehouse until 1 a.m. After three cups of espresso, he sat down to write the paper. He managed to wrap it up at twenty to three the next day, at which point he hailed a taxi for the law faculty.

"That was one of my finest hours," Allen says with pride, pointing out that the paper was some of the best work he had done all semester. Though some would deride Allen's weekend schedule as an example of a poor work ethic, Allen notes that it was not an unpleasant experience.

"Instead of sitting at my desk agonizing all weekend, I accomplished a great deal," Allen says. "Sure, I left it until the last minute, but I got a great deal done in the interim."

NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING

Procrastination has been around as long as work has existed, and, as Allen

“Severe procrastination may be a problem, but so is being a workaholic. There's a definite balance between the two that needs to be attained.”

argues, it isn't necessarily a bad thing. The ancient Egyptians had two different words that roughly correspond to procrastination: one for the useful habit of avoiding impulsive work and unnecessary effort and one for the lazy habit of avoiding a necessary task. It would certainly be detrimental if the fields weren't tilled when the Nile flooded, but would it really matter if the Pyramids were put off for another day? In essence, the act of procrastination needn't be harmful. The word itself comes from the Latin *procrastinus*, literally meaning to "move to tomorrow." Depending on what you decide to put off, you can simplify or complicate your life.

For some, putting work off until tomorrow can result in extreme stress and poor grades. McGill's counselling service sees many students who identify procrastination as a stumbling block to their academic success. Ted Baker, director of counselling at McGill, says that procrastination may be a problem for many, but it needs to be further examined before a solution can be found.

"There are two ways to approach it," Baker says. "One is that they really just need some help with organization and time management. We look at that as a possible way to get them to do what they have to do. The other way, which is more difficult to

address, is if there is some kind of emotional or psychological problem relating to their difficulty starting things. It may be a fear of failure. For these people, even if you were to organize them, it wouldn't help. If we can find the problem and work around it, we can probably help them."

Baker's advice to procrastinators heading into exams is to identify why it is that they procrastinate. He lists possible reasons as a fear of getting a bad grade, difficulties with evaluation or insecurities about being able to complete the task. Allen explains that his reason for procrastinating is much more positive than any of these.

"Some people like to jog, some play football. They do this because there is a physiological high from it. For them, having their brain bouncing around in their head causes certain chemicals to be released. Well, I derive the same sort of pleasure from the frantic last read over, the hurried stapling, the anxious printout and the mad dash for the taxi cab. It makes school a game, and it really is a game in the grand picture. I procrastinate like some people play sports."

The average procrastinator may not have an elaborate theory to explain the phenomenon, but chances are it is no less integrated into their lifestyle. University of Toronto student Jessica Barr explains that

procrastination is an unavoidable part of her academic career. She gladly elaborated on her views to avoid reading the James Joyce on the table in front of her at the Architecture Café.

"Procrastination is integrated fantastically into my schedule," Barr says. "It's this thing my brain does where I keep going, 'I know I have to work,' but there's always something more fascinating than studying. Like, *Ulysses*. Do I really want to use this book for anything more than a doorstop? I end up doing all sorts of silly things and then having to stay up until four reading for class the next morning."

EXPERT ADVICE

Among the world's foremost experts in procrastination research is Dr. Joseph Ferrari of DePaul University in Chicago.

Ferrari explains that there are five misconceptions that may result in academic procrastination. These include overestimating the amount of time you have, underestimating the amount of work, overestimating how motivated you will be, thinking that you need to be in a perfect mood to work and believing that any work you do when you're not in the perfect mood will be suboptimal. Ferrari recommends the use of the "Doing it Now" approach to deal with these misconceptions. First, make a list of all that you really need to do. Break down huge projects (i.e., study for final

exam) into manageable chunks (make notes on chapters one to three). The list must be realistic, so don't bother putting tasks down that you know you'll never get to. Estimate the amount of time it will take to do each task, and then double it. Finally, offer yourself rewards for completed tasks. Make sure that the rewards aren't things you'll do anyway; if you're going to go see the movie regardless, then it's not a reward.

Allen was curious to know about the antidotes to procrastination, but admitted that he had no intention of putting them into practice.

"If procrastination is really disrupting your life, I suppose these might be good ideas. I like to think of it as a golden mean. Severe procrastination may be a problem, but so is being a workaholic. There's a definite balance between the two that needs to be attained."

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A Moral Mockingbird

McGill law professor and author Margaret Somerville says we need to start worrying about the ethics of science and medicine

BY PAUL REEVE
The McGill Daily

I really first started to worry about where science was taking us when, back in high school biology, I saw photographs of that poor mouse at the University of Boston with what looked for all the world like a fully formed human ear growing on its back.

First of all, the thing made me shudder and laugh at the same time. But there was more to it than this moment of darkly comic revulsion. Here, I thought, was science - the gleaming, pure pursuit of knowledge about the world and our place in it - thrusting a grimy finger into the clean-running machinery of life.

At the same time, I was learning about the elaborate microscopic business of the cell. Set against this background, the broadening success of the kind of tinkering that built Mr. Earmouse seemed to me to provide a startlingly hollow picture of life. Living beings, I started to think, are machines - with a stunningly intricate arrangement of slime and gunk for gears and gadgetry.

But if you ask Margaret Somerville, she'll tell you that that image starts you off the wrong way, at least when it comes to getting a hold on the slippery ethics of contemporary science. "We're not just a highly functioning biological machine, we're something more than that," says the McGill professor, author of a new book called *The Ethical Canary: Science, Society and the Human Spirit*. Without a "sense of connectedness that we

have to each other, to the Earth, ultimately to the universe," she says, we'll have no way to decide what limits we set on science. We have more pressing reasons to think about setting these sorts of limits now than at any time in human history, she thinks, as we gain ever greater powers to manipulate life, for better or worse.

Not to say that it's going to be easy. "That's the difficulty in our kind of society. In the past, when we were much smaller homogenous societies, we tended to look to an external moral authority.... We don't do that anymore. We have to work out for ourselves what's ethical and what's not."

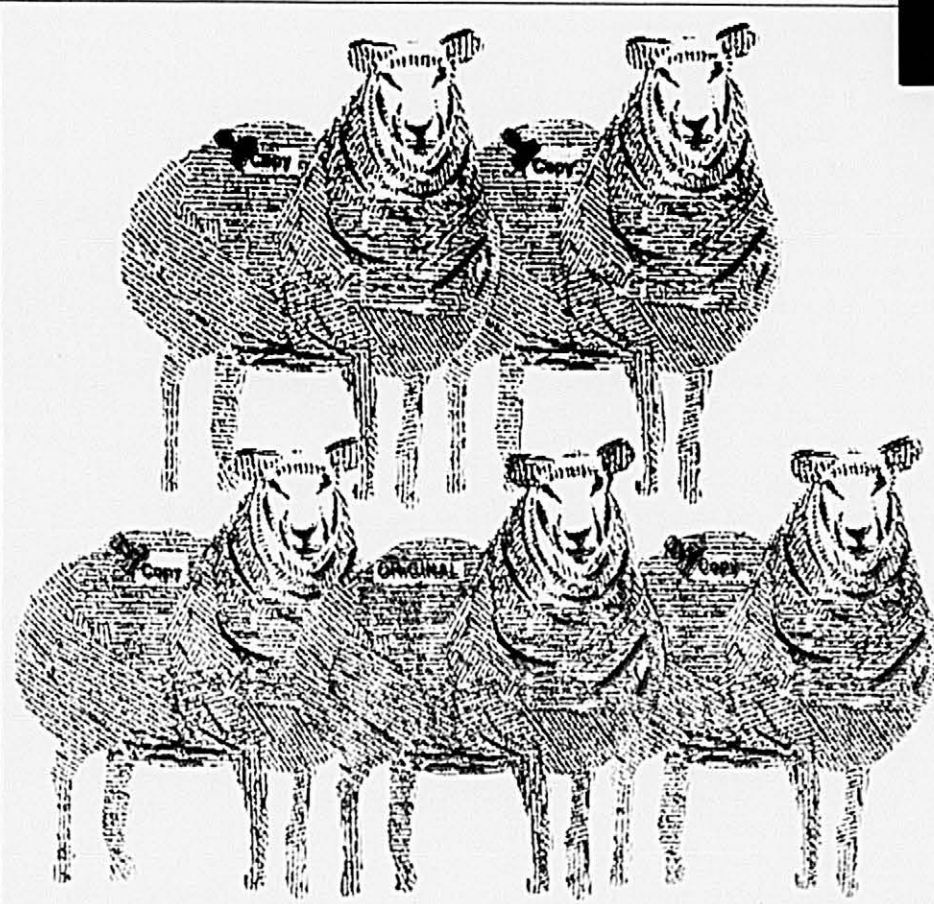
But, she thinks, there are convictions that are more or less universally shared. And

we can use them to create a public foundation for judgements about what science and technology should be allowed - or required - to do. "What I suggested in the book is that we start off with two basic values, which I thought most people could accept. And that is respect for life - by that I mean all life, but in particular human life - and respect for what I call the human spirit. Which is not a religious term, necessarily, at all."

For Somerville, this means adopting a starkly definitive position on some issues in science and technology - a kind of secular absolutism, at least when it comes to certain things. "I think it's inherently wrong to undertake the research to make biological weapons of war, like genetically based

weapons that would be targeted at wiping out a certain racial or ethnic group and that would leave other groups unaffected. I don't think we've even got the right to go about developing that kind of knowledge."

tive - take an extreme example. You want to get a woman pregnant by someone who has a certain genetic disease in order to have that fetus in order to do some research. I think people would find that



"Dolly the sheep", a collage by Carolyn Stubbs

She counterposes this approach to the situational ethics that she says has ruled our society for decades. "[It] says that nothing's inherently wrong, and what you do is you balance out the goods and the harms and you say, overall what we're doing is good, and therefore the harms are justified. An 'inherently wrong' approach," the kind she advocates, "says that some things are wrong in themselves."

THE MEANS ARE IMPORTANT

"It's not that I've got any objection to new knowledge," she adds. "Whatever the knowledge is, that's fine. But the fact that you're searching for knowledge doesn't necessarily justify everything you could do to get it. For example, if you're doing something that's ethically sensi-

ethically unacceptable."

This kind of nightmare science scenario isn't the only place where Somerville thinks contemporary science and medicine are in danger of running up against uncrossable moral boundaries. There are also things like a plan being considered in Britain: "you're going to actually make human embryos with the intention of doing nothing with those embryos except use them as the basis for what would be called a 'human embryo plant.' They will become your manufacturing plant for making therapeutic products that you will use to help other people. A lot of people, though not everybody, will have problems with that, they think that it's inherently wrong to transmit human life for no other purpose than to destroy it."

The fact that something can seem to be "wrong in itself" to one person and not to another doesn't seem to faze her too much. She points out that even just changing the way we talk about a volatile issue can change our reaction to it.

EUTHANASIA: BULLETS INTO POETRY

"It's never neutral how we describe something. Language both reflects and forms us, and often does that simultaneously. One of my colleagues told me that one of his teachers used to say 'It only takes a generation to turn a poet's words into bullets.' And I guess in some ways what we're faced with in our world is turning bullets into poets' words, but still realizing that those words are immensely powerful."

"It matters, the language that we use to describe things. It particularly matters because in ethics, it's not just our cognitive functioning that counts, it's also about what we call collectively our other ways of human knowing, which include moral intuitions. And moral intuitions are activated very differently depending on how we describe the things that we're doing."

Mercy killings are a perfect illustration. "It makes a huge difference to how you see euthanasia, if you describe it as a compassionate and merciful act of clinical care. One person, Timothy Quill, a doctor who committed euthanasia in the US, said it was just the final act of good palliative care. All of that language is very reassuring."

"On the other hand, if you describe it as doctors killing patients, which is also what it is, you feel very differently about what's going on there."

LAWYERS: AN INVERTED SCENARIO?

This difference in language reflects deeper issues about how we conceive the relationship of doctors to the maintenance of human life, she points out. Maybe doctors, usually seen as the guardians of life, should stay away from this kind of deliberate push toward death, no matter how merciful. "One article in

the journal *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* suggested that if you were going to have euthanasia, you shouldn't have doctors doing it because then patients get scared of doctors and some of them keep away from health care. And so you need to look for people in society who are trained both to interpret rules and to strictly apply them. And they said, well, the most obvious group is lawyers. So we should have a group of lawyers who would be trained to carry out euthanasia."

"I got up at an international conference having to talk about this. There, some people had objected to my saying that what doctors were doing was killing people. But when I suggested that lawyers would do this, one of these same people got up and said, 'You mean you'd let lawyers kill people?' It was very interesting. The difference wasn't in the act, the difference was in who was doing it."

A BROAD SPECTRUM

This talk about how big a difference language makes to moral feelings seemed a far cry from "inherent wrongness." Does this flexibility in people's reactions mean that resolving ethical questions just means finding the right way to describe a delicate issue?

"No," she replies. "What we do in those cases is to use as broad a spectrum of language as we can. So that we can to some degree connect with the moral intuitions, recognize that there are anxious feelings there about the morality of what we're doing, recognize that some of the choice of language is a value judgement, where we're trying to influence the debate one way or the other. And to recognize that depending on the language we use we'll have different insights about what we're doing."

I think again of the scary mouse with a

human ear, which was cited by critics of genetic engineering as a harbinger of the dark future that may lie just beyond the biotech horizon. This little guy, it turns out, is by some accounts a great success for a promising new avenue in medicine - and it's not genetic engineering. The still gross ear was grown from human tissue, on a polymer frame. The possibility of growing replacement body parts for someone from their own tissue without a host organism may depend on this kind of research. Not a value-neutral development, for sure, but not exactly what critics made it out to be.

MEDICAL ADVANCES: INEVITABLE DILEMMAS

Euthanasia and mice with ears on their backs are far from being the only major ethical issues created by contemporary medicine. Decisions on what care is available to who and when are partly ethical decisions, Somerville says. And some disturbingly unavoidable dilemmas present themselves.

"Let's say there's this extraordinary new treatment that could prolong somebody's life... In fact, we had a case of this last summer with this very expensive new treatment for breast cancer and a young single mother. She's got breast cancer, and this treatment, which is extremely expensive, could prolong her life. The estimate was by about five months. She wanted it, and the provincial government didn't want to pay for it. They said it was far too expensive, we can't give it to everybody, and it's not going to cure you. She said, 'Five months is really important to me and my child.'"

The young mother got the treatment. "When you've got an identified person, it is terribly difficult to say no. And it's right that it's terribly difficult to say no, because that means that we're being ethically sensitive to what we're doing."

But the incredible success of contemporary medicine at generating expensive new ways of fighting disease creates its own vexing problems. "There's going to be more and more of those kind of treatments, and how are we going to make these decisions? If we personally identify someone who needs a medical treatment and we've got obligations to provide it, we probably will give it. On the other hand, we have what Dr. Morris McGregor, the former Dean of Medicine at McGill, called the 'costs of our success' at treating illnesses."

"First of all there's psychological and emotional costs. We're grappling with what not giving [treatment] costs us emotionally and psychologically."

"Secondly, there's symbolic costs. In a secular society, health care carries the value for all of us of caring for each other. If I look at you and say to you, 'Look, it's your problem if you're sick, and I'm not going to do anything to look after you, whether it's paying tax dollars or working at a hospital or whatever it is, then that is a very strong message of not being a caring society. Sometimes it's been said that you can judge the ethical tone of a society by how it treats its weakest members. In our kind of society, most of us are most vulnerable when we're sick."

"And the third cost" - the one that gives the other problems their bite - "is the financial cost."

One of the solutions often used to deal with the problem of allocating life-saving health care resources, she notes, is pushing those decisions further back behind an opaque veil of bureaucracy.

"It's very difficult to make those decisions. What we tend to do is to make them as latently as possible. So if you can't identify who makes the decisions, and if you can't see the actual direct victim of the decision, if you hide the values that are offended, you're

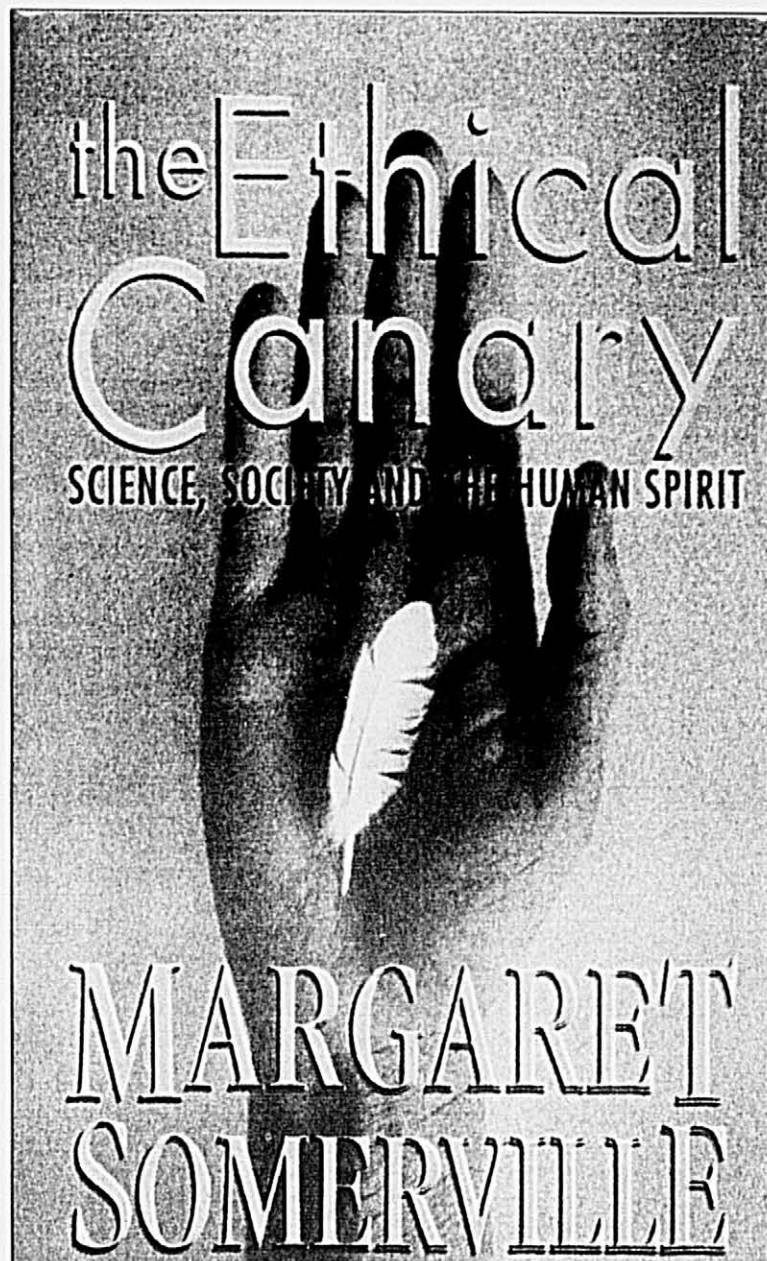
more comfortable with that than if you bring all that out into the open. A group of women with breast cancer did an inquiry across Canada in the summer of 1999 to try to simply find out about who makes the decisions on which new treatments for breast cancer will be made available under provincial health plans. And in some of the provinces they couldn't even find out who made those decisions! Which is a way of diffusing the feeling of responsibility."

ETHICS TALK, THE MEDIA, AND THE PUBLIC

Talking about the role of the media in creating and shaping debate on these and other difficult moral questions that face human society as technological possibilities continue to expand, Somerville comments that "we've gone too far on the intense individualism end."

"Even though it's extremely important that we protect the individual and individual rights, it's not the only thing we have to consider. We have to consider the common good in the sense of community. And when you're dealing with these issues in the media, it's relatively easy and very powerful, particularly on television, to make the individual case - to show the really sick person who wants to die, and says, 'Why won't you give me euthanasia, you'll even give the person condemned to death their last wish.' Whereas how do you put on television what that would do to societal values, in terms of institutionalizing physicians giving lethal injections to their patients? It's extremely difficult to do."

Despite the predominance of this skewed picture in the intellectual commons, Somerville hopes to see, and to play some part in spurring, an expanded public debate about the ethics of science and medicine. More "ethics talk," she says, and a little less action from science.

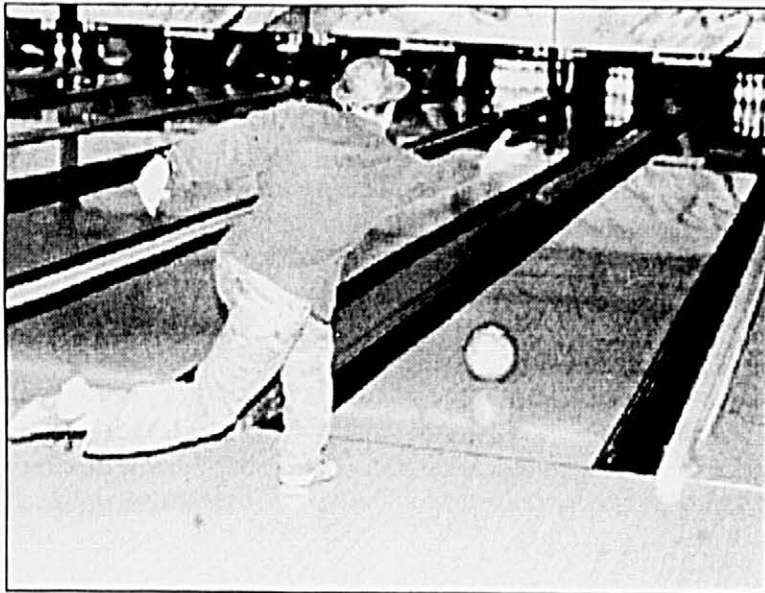


Feeling Dumb? Feel Smart Now!

A few simple ways to up your intellectual self-esteem during exams

BY SARAH LAZAROVIC
Culture Reporter

The smarmy guy with the cowlick sits in front of you, explaining the 400-plus pages of course readings that he's analyzed and dissected to his equally enthusiastic chum. You remember that you've still got to pick up the coursepack, even though exams are next week. The coursepack will, of course, make you feel stupid, thrusting pounds of information at you in the



form of an overgrown, overpriced example of masterful photocopying. Since the class is nearly over and you've got about as much chance of passing as Pamela Anderson, why not put that cash to much more satisfying use? University is replete with perfect people, big books, complicated packaging and misleading ballots all conspiring to make you feel as if



you have fewer brain cells than all the guests on the Jerry Springer Show combined. During the horror that is exam time, these diversions

may subdue your instinctive urges to abandon the abyss of academia in search of a commune where reading is forbidden.

THE BOWLING ALLEY

In the musty darkness of a bowling alley, there are no intellectual heavy-weights. Everyone is there for the bowling...and the beer, and the french fries, and the wonderful camaraderie that abounds in such a friendly atmosphere (as exemplified by John Turturro in *The Big Lebowski*). Using physics jargon to determine the speed necessary for a strike will get you nowhere. But, your intellectual ego will be spared, because no one will be discussing the merits of your last term paper.

CEGEP

Though you are only a few years older than these folk, your university years have somehow made you infinitely wiser and more

PRE-SCHOOL

These kids don't know anything. When you ask them what their thoughts are on cold fusion, they will respond with a swift counter question. Some recent examples have included "Do you have a crayon?" "Can I go to the bathroom here?" and the ever-popular "Did you take my cookie?" But, rest assured, these questions are mere decoys, cleverly calculated to mask their ignorance of cold fusion. You, dear reader, will feel supremely smarter. And you also don't have to hold on to a long string every time you leave the house.

THE ARCADE

While you pour your parents hard-earned dough into the coffers of conventional education, there are guys studying diligently at the School of Hard Knocks. Recently, the School of Hard Knocks changed its name to The Arcade, a place of respite from the hectic world of St. Catherine. A few shiny quarters, tinny pop music pumping over the ambient arcade din, lots of pre-pubescent boys getting ready to tilt the quarter machine and experience their first felony. For a pittance (or twelve quarters, whichever comes first), you can be an academic escapist, seeking the ultimate glory of getting to program your initials into the Highest Scorer list.

NATURAL LAW PARTY HEADQUARTERS

You never felt smart enough to run for SSMU office. How those guys find time to juggle academics, political posturing and frequent haircuts never ceases to amaze you. Enter the Natural Law Party. They would be happy to have you represent them in your riding, so long as you take a

crash course in Yogic Flying (which does not require purchase of a coursepack). In the Natural Law Party you will discover that you are not only smarter than the smarmy guy with the cowlick, but you also have a more pleasant aura.

TOBACCONIST

If you can't be smart, it is still possible to play the part. This involves buying a pipe and a sweater-vest. Smoking a pipe brings up a case of Sherlock Holmesian images. With tweed cap and



pipe in hand, everyone will simply assume that you embody all the desirable qualities of Arthur Conan Doyle's superior sleuth. After only a few weeks with your pipe, you should come to possess these qualities of logic, wit and shrewdness. You may sit in class and say things like, "I have deduced that this professor is a fraud," when the prof in question gives you a less than respectable mark.

QUICK FIXES

If you need a rapid smart-fix, there are a few ways to grant your grey matter some instant gratification.

-Go up to people on the street. Ask them what your mother's name is.

96.53% of the time they will not know. The fools.

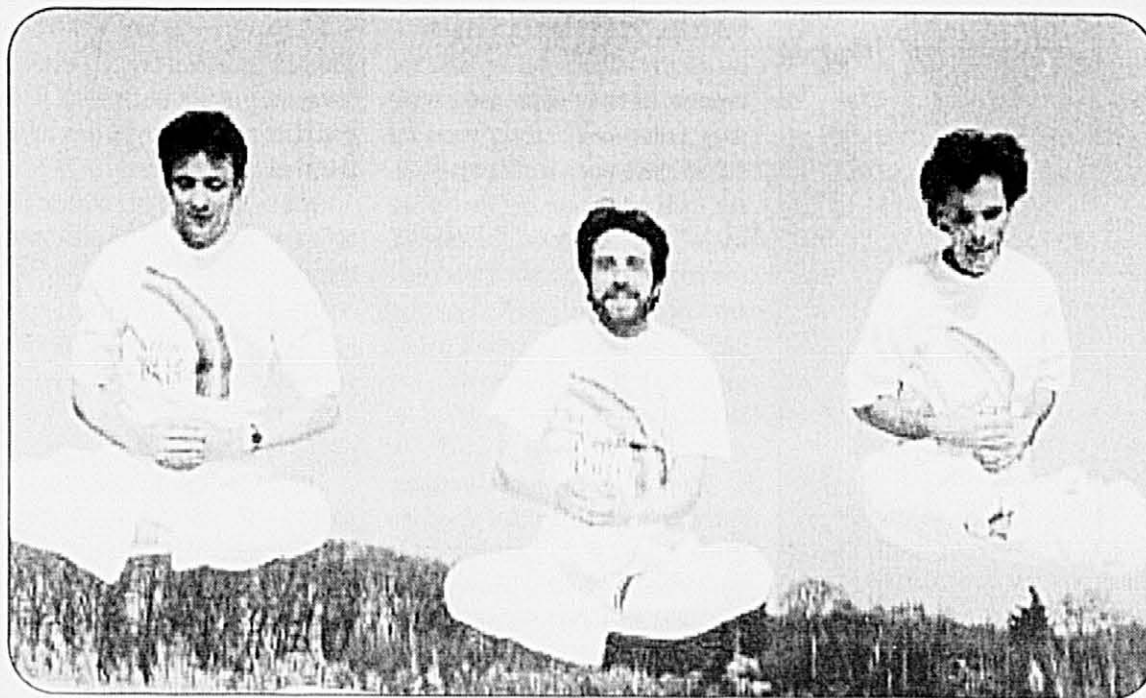
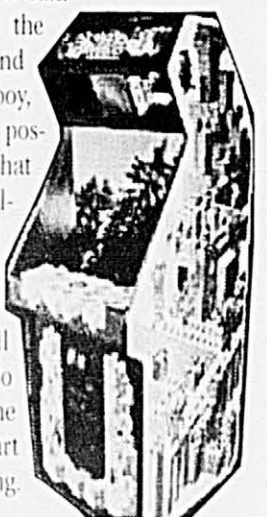
-Challenge Stockwell Day to a debate where he must use at least one three-syllable word and no visual aides. See how much smarter you are than a politician of national renown.

-Go to poetry readings with your hair completely dishevelled and clothing disarrayed. Scrawl out strange numerical calculations throughout the readings. When curious poetry-enthusiasts ask you what you are doing, reply that you are converting the beautiful words of poetry into a universal mathematical language that will be understandable to all species.

-Fashion a cowlick out of shoe-polish and tell your classmates all about the 400-page reading that you haven't read. If they too haven't read it, then they won't be able to call your bluff, and you will know you have an ally in the fight for universal exam stupidity.

Though the aforementioned activities are all laudable ways to spend your time, if you truly want to feel you're smart, the most recommended (and widely practiced!) activity is faux-studying. This involves sequestering yourself at library, café, resto or bar with your study materials and chosen form of nourishment. You carefully spread your educational poison across your chosen table, rest a chin upon your knuckles and adopt a look of pained concentration. Then, you can either spy someone cute or listen to the juicy gossip being dished at the next table, nibbling intermittently on your biscotti. With any luck, you'll ace that 8 a.m. exam. But even if you don't, you've now got a plethora of other

options at the ready. And cowlick boy, despite his possession of that extensive, all-important coursepack intelligence, will never to master the beautiful art of Yogic Flying.



Why is This Tree Watching Me?

Degrassi's Joey Jeremiah and Daily writer quest culture in downtown decorations

BY OLIVIA POJAR
Culture Reporter

Writing an article about Christmas decorations is about as interesting as watching CPAC. So, when Sunday morning rolled around and I could not longer put this article off, I was at a loss as to how to make it interesting. At a loss, that is, until Joey Jeremiah called.

Yes, I am speaking of the Joey Jeremiah, the practical joker of Degrassi Jr. High, the kid who always wore that hat.

Why, one might ask, would such a famous Canadian personality be phoning a lowly McGill student? The answer is a long complex story involving Anne Murray, a Stomping Tom CD, and a tad too much Kokanee beer...and it's a story I'd rather leave untold. However, all you need know is that me and Joey go way back and if there's anyone that makes a decoration-seeking trek around Montreal interesting it's Joey Jeremiah.

Me: "So, Joey, what have you been up to since the death of Degrassi?"

Joey: "Well, I starred in the prestigious CBC drama, Liberty Street, as well as my own show 'Music Works.' And, if you make sure not to blink, you can see me finely portraying an Apache fighter pilot in the screen gem, Godzilla. Hey, look! Bunnies!"

We had arrived at the impressive Ogilvy window decorations on St. Catherine's. Two huge windows were full of animatronic creatures in a scenic Christmas setting. So peaceful. So wholesome...or so we thought. Joey, who apparently has a keen eye for the perverse, discovered some lewd acts hidden in the animal wonderland. Look closely and you will find that the monkeys are up to no good. A large group can be

found imbibing alcohol in the little chateau, one looks to be performing what can only be described as 'dry-humping,' and, featured prominently front and center, is a nasty little monkey who appears to be raping a small dog. For shame Ogilvy.

"Wow. That reminds me of the time I went all the way with Tessa Campinelli."

"I can't believe you fucked Tessa Campinelli. You were dating Caitlin at the time too...she was hot. What were you thinking?"

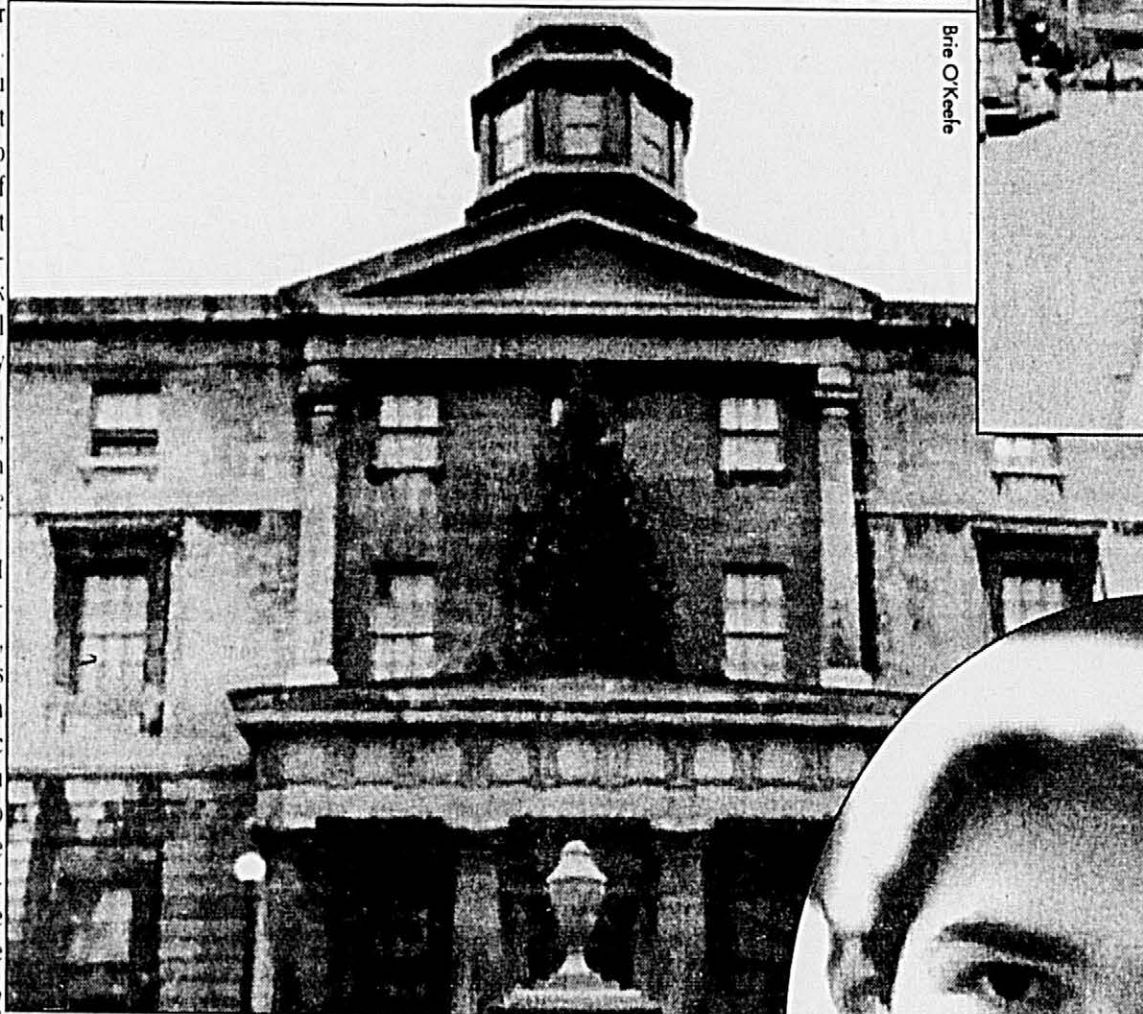
"Well...she was the Ice Queen."

A little shaken by our experience with the perverse world of Ogilvy, Joey and I decided to take a much needed break and stop for lunch at Ben's. Not surprisingly, our waiter instantly recognized that he was in the presence of greatness, exclaiming, "Is that Joey Jeremiah?!"

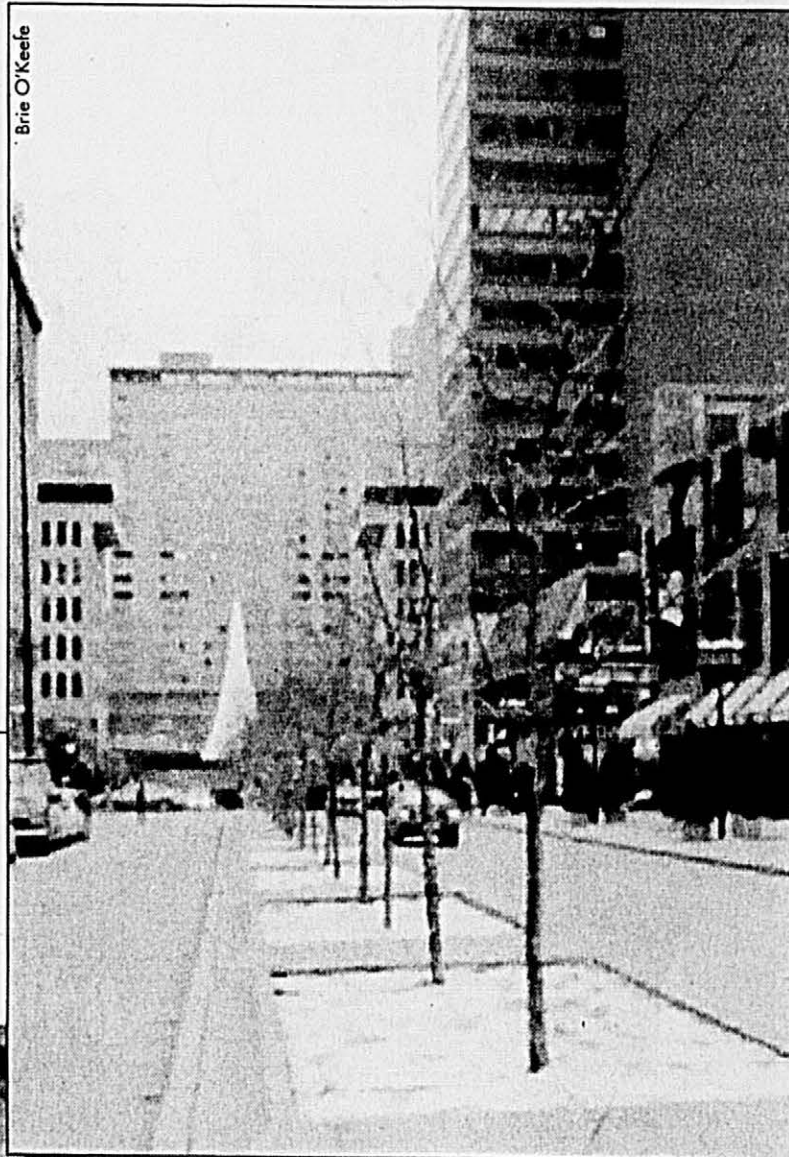
the truly sick thing is giant red ribbon tied around what I believe is a law firm. Sounds like a great present...what did you get for Christmas dear? Oh how fun, lawyers!

We did not linger long in the Eaton's center after Joey had a disturbing encounter with a giant tree with eyes. He ran screaming from the mall and I only caught up with him outside The Bay. After ten minutes I finally convinced him that no, Dwayne wasn't going to shove his face up against the locker-room door, steal his clothes and throw him in the broom closet.

Calmed, we turned around and came face to face with the most disturbing decoration in all of Montreal: The Bay's moving mannequins. Rapist monkeys were bad enough; now Joey and I were faced with the Canadian



Brie O'Keefe



Brie O'Keefe

Above: McGill College is lined with lights. Left: Art building tree. Below: Joe



son: it's freaky.

By now, we'd had just about enough. Joey and I wandered up the light-clad St. Denis and he told me stories about Snake, Wheels, Spike, Lucy, and the good old days at Degrassi. We were confused by the "artistic" flag and cellophane decorations on St. Laurent and Joey realized that the red flags were just the colour of Claude's blood after he blew his brains out in the Degrassi wash-rooms.

"Well, I mean, I would've killed myself if I dressed like Hamlet too. He looked like he just walked off the Arts steps."

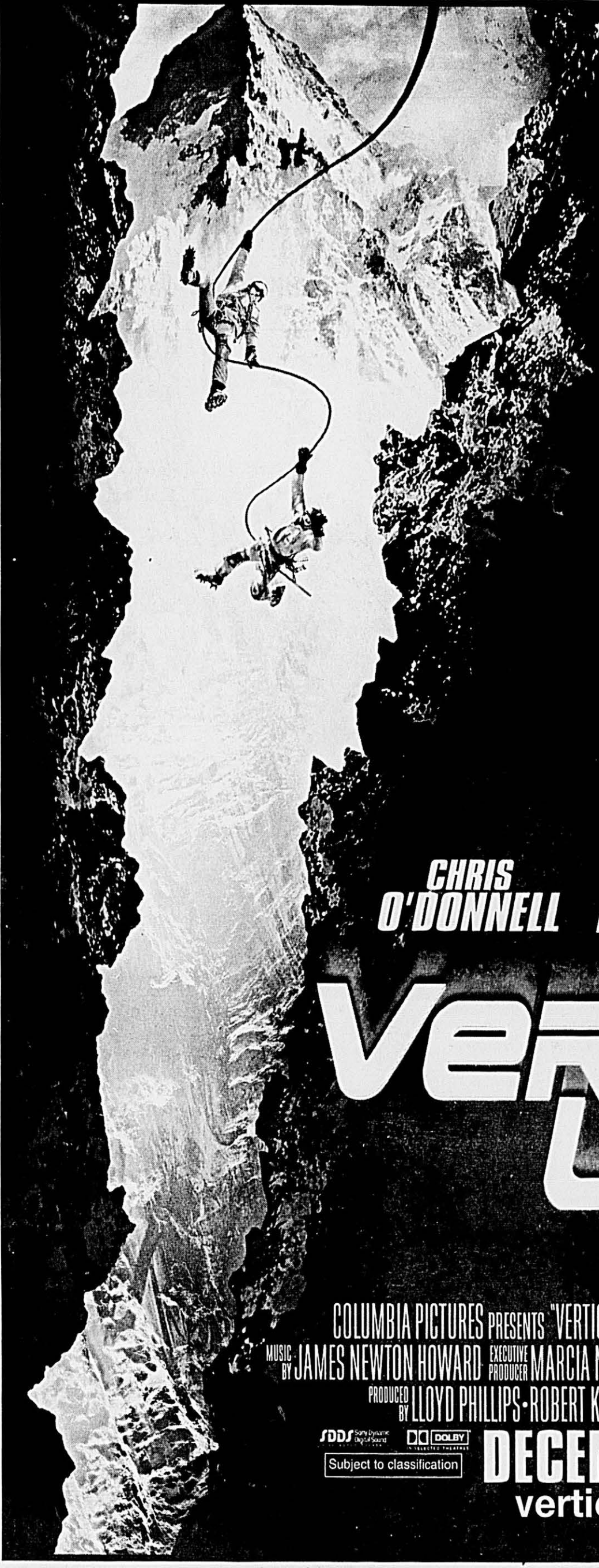
Finally, after another frightening encounter with talking trees in Warshaw, it was time for Joey to leave. We parted ways at Duluth.

"Goodbye Joey..." I said to him with deep fondness, "and, why yes, insanity does run in my family."

Fortified by our meal, we once again felt able to brave the decorations. And indeed, it took all of our strength to deal with what we found next: corporate decorations.

The bigger, the brighter, the better seems to be the corporation motto. McGill College is lined with frightening homage's to the small electric lightbulb. There the standard massive glowing donut on one building and skeleton of a tree situated at the end of the street, but

Alliance Christmas party. The girls get dolls, the boys get Nintendo and everyone are blond-haired, blue-eyed, Aryan gods frolicking in their consumerist splendor. Even Grandma gets in the scene...have you ever seen an old mannequin? No? Well, there's a rea-



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Ensemble Blows

McGill Wind Symphony makes many regret decision to quit playing clarinet in sixth grade

BY SEAN MICHAELS
Culture Writer

Classical music is good. We all know this, deep in our hearts, and any claims to the opposite are really just ways of covering up related feelings of inadequacy. Too many parents, too many world leaders, too many intellectuals have been fans of the ole' viola and oboe stuff. What's more, there has to be something to the comments about pop stars "getting serious" when they finally sit down to write a concerto.

All that said, I'm well aware that certain people will never appreciate classical music. Idiots, for one. There are also people who aren't open-minded enough, don't care enough to try, or who have already made up their mind that classical music is dumb. Finally, there are those who are fanatically devoted to one type of music (such as breakbeats or hip hop) that has few direct parallels in the world of instrumental classical. But for the rest of you, there's no excuse.

On November 27 I attended an excellent concert by McGill's Wind Symphony. Fifty woodwind, brass and percussion players from the Faculty of Music, performing works that date from the past couple hundred years, and performing them well. What's more, as an ardent fan of pop music, I was still able to appreciate the glory of the sounds they made.

The "set" opened with a 20th-century piece called "Resonances", by Ron Nelson. A good twenty or thirty trumpet-, trombone- and French horn- players lined either side of the audience, joining the Wind Symphony proper that was stationed on-stage. A few percussionists, armed with various sticks long and short, with balls big and small, stood prepped for the insanity to begin.

It started soft, a few pure notes—long and sweet and whole and... well... resonant. Something brass and wonderful. More and more instruments joined in, with more and more notes filling the air, until there was a veritable cacophony of heraldic calls and flourishes. Oboes and flutes filled the upper reaches of the register, with

droning, hypnotic xylophones, bells and boxes providing a pulse to the work. Here and there, you could hear the musicians humming in harmony, instruments set aside, all amidst the ever-increasing blare of horn and wind and gong.



"One day, I want to play the tuba too!"

Now, I know Godspeed You Black Emperor! Granted, I haven't seen them live (but then I've only lived here for a few months). But I know what they do; I've heard what they're famous for. They do 'build and climax' like no one else in popular music. But then, these classical dudes? They do it even better. "Resonances" made me think of GYBE!, and, then surpassed that memory. The united orchestra, lead by skilled conductor Daniel Gordon, filled my ears with a growing crescendo, a warmth and a push and a triumph. And then it faded away, leaving only a dinging alarm-clock beat, echoes...and silence.

I know that Forest for the Trees did that alarm-clock thing, too. But "Resonances" was written in 1991, man; Ron Nelson came first. More excitement followed, in the form Bach's Prelude and Fugue in G minor. A melody straight out of Belle and Sebastian danced and lilted its way around Pollack Hall, soon overwhelmed by a colourful pastoral arrangement, like something out a Divine Comedy record. A gentle beauty, with sunshine and lush fields. Frank Tichelli's "Blue Shades" followed. A

more jazzy number, the ensemble maintained its cohesion, dancing through scales and rhythmic variations. Following the groovy solo by a bass clarinet player (who, with his unbuttoned shirt and goofy instrument looked like the Sesame Street epitome of cool), and another, deft solo performance by the lead clarinetist, "Blue Shades" fell into a racing, spy-thriller middle portion. With a fuzzy, round sound, it was like something out of the Blur instrumental songbook. The familiar rhythms fell away, the xylophones got involved, and I found myself amidst the evil circus music of Mr. Bungle (and Tom Waits, before them). Then, just as the demonic clowns were solidifying in my minds' eye, the horns slid in, supported by the winds, and the number finished with a shrugging, slinking exit; a Jarvis Cocker wink. And that was just the first half.

The duration of most concerts (90 minutes with an intermission) makes them really accessible; you don't have time to get bored. What's more, a great number of the Faculty of Music's performances are free, whereas the others (such as the Wind Symphony show) often ask for nothing more than a slim \$5. Watching the conductor put on his white gloves (which delighted me for a full 45 seconds) is worth the five bucks on its own, and the experience is only accentuated when you see the same girl who you saw moshing at the Planetsmashers concert, the weekend before, now blowing with gusto (and a fine aperture) on her flute. There are all sorts of shows, from crazy percussion ensembles, to concert pianists, to new electronic music by GEMS. Schedules can be picked up at Pollack Hall. As for etiquette - just remember to clap when the conductor enters, and at the end of pieces, but not in between movements. It should usually be obvious because the conductor will turn around and grin, or something.

Classical music can be moving, fulfilling and electrifying. Live, just as with other genres, the experience is only accentuated. Oh yeah, and they give Godspeed a run for their money. Go get some culture; if you don't like it, you can always go home and download some Korn from Napster.

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Faiths for Me, You, and the Radish

Your guide to December celebrations if you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim or other

BY DYRESHA HARRIS
The McGill Daily

Sometimes it seems like people think that Christmas is the only holiday in December. How stupid. Just because Kathie Lee doesn't have a Night of the Radishes special sing-along doesn't mean that the other holidays that fall in December aren't equally important. And interesting. And fun!

This year, I'm going to celebrate more than one of the winter holidays. I mean, you know, as soon as I figure out what they are.

CHANUKAH

So, I was walking through a Hallmark store the other day, looking for yet another "sorry I missed your birthday, and threw up on your couch" card, when I stumbled across a section marked "Festival of Lights." And there I am thinking: "Chanukah, yeah, why haven't I ever celebrated Chanukah?" So I decided I had to know more.

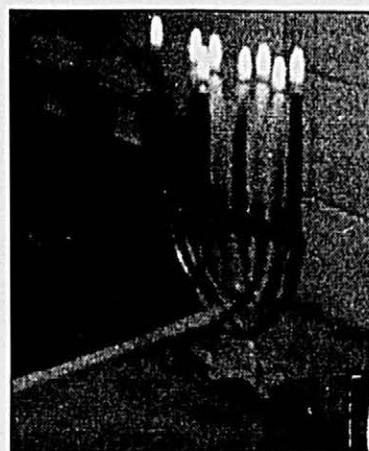
History: Chanukah (Dec 22-29) (with or without the 'C') is a Jewish holiday that starts on the 25th day of Kislev. It commemorates the victory in 165 BCE of the Jews over the Hellenist Syrians who had invaded Jerusalem. As the story goes, the Jewish soldiers cleaned up the temple, which had been defiled, then went to light the lamps. Unfortunately they could only find enough undefiled oil to light the lamps for one night. But here's where it gets interesting. Miraculously the oil lasted for eight nights after which more fuel could be obtained.

Practice: Now Jewish people celebrate this event by lighting a candle for every night the oil

in the temple burned and placing it in a menorah or special holder. The lighting is accompanied by chanting of appropriate prayers and songs (and despite what my friend Becca thinks, these do not include "The Chanukah Song" by Adam Sandler). I know you have eight crazy nights! You don't have to rub it in.

Presents: Something minor each of the 8 nights.

RAMADAN



Above: The candles of Chanukah.
Right: The candles of Kwanzaa.
Do not confuse them.

I discovered my next holiday when I confronted my roommate about her eating habits. I'd noticed that she'd been missing out on lunch and I was a little concerned. You can imagine my relief when she told me that she was just celebrating Ramadan (Nov. 28) I asked her to tell me more.

History: Ramadan is the ninth month of the lunar Muslim calendar, which this year,

happened to fall on the rather heavily populated holiday season. This is the month in which Muslims believe that the Holy Quran was sent down from heaven, and so it's a time to concentrate on faith.

Practice: During this month and, yes, it lasts a whole month Muslims are not allowed to eat, drink, smoke, or have sex during daylight hours. So much for that in-between class quickie. Also, things that are always considered bad like gossiping about how drunk your best friend was at that party last night, or swearing you left that paper on your teacher's desk are considered even worse during this month.

Presents: On the up side there's a three day celebration at the end of the month called Eid-al-Fitr with lots of food and gifts.

KWANZAA

OK, so I've got my menorah ready and I'm keeping one eye on the sun. Then I call my brother and he's all "Are you celebrating



Kwanzaa (Dec. 26)?"

"Kwanzaa?" says I.

"Yes, Kwanzaa. You know, the African-American holiday created in 1966 by Dr. Kerega."

"No, please, tell me more."

"Well, you see Sis, Kwanzaa lasts for 7 days during which time the family gets together in celebration of the 7 principles of unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. A red, black, or green candle is lit each night, representing the principle of the day as well as the three colours of a united Africa. On the 31st there's a big feast called Karuma with food and dancing."

"The 31st? Hm, Ramadan should be over by then. Sounds good. Do you get any presents?"

"Yeah, one every night. But they should be home-made, or at the very least afro-centric."

"Gee, bro, you sure do know a lot about Kwanzaa."

"Well, it's our responsibility to stay knowledgeable about our past. For more information, check your local bookstore or library. Now, let's get back to that money you owe me."

WINTER SOLSTICE

Then later, in my anthropology class we were talking about the importance of Winter Solstice (Dec 21). This holiday is celebrated by Aborigines, academics, astroarchaeologists, Atheists, Celts, Druids, Native Americans, neopagans, Shamans, Wiccans, et cetera. I thought, "Shit! This is really where it's at."

History: It is a celebration of the shortest day of the year and the rebirth of the sun. Some believe this is the night in which the veil

between the spirit world and the living is thinnest. Thus it's a good time to meditate, celebrate heritage, attune to nature cycles, or just get to know that dead great aunt you never met.

Practice: There's a huge variation of ceremonies involving bell-ringing, Yule trees, Yule burning and candle burning. One common theme seems to be a period of silent meditation in the dark with family and an offering of grains and seeds to the wild birds and other creatures. Keep in mind you may have to improvise in Montreal, but I feel like a can of tuna for that weird limpy alley cat with one eye is probably OK.

Presents: Should be down played, but if it's necessary—and come on, it's always necessary—a group of small home-made, nature-related gifts are acceptable on or near the solstice.

CHRISTMAS

OK, I've got my menorah, my kente cloth, my basket of bread, and I'm still not eating. So, I bet there are some of you out there thinking: "Why even bother with Christmas?" But come on, folks, let's not forget about the mistletoe, Jolly old Saint Nick or those parties that everyone and their limpy, one-eyed cat seem inspired to throw.

History: Christmas (Dec. 25) marks the day on which Christians believe Jesus Christ was born. Some believe the actual date was in spring and that Christmas was moved to show up those snooty pagans with all their winter frolicking. Gifts are given to represent the gifts of the wise men.

Practice: Christmas lasts, despite what the McGill vacation committee might think, for twelve, count 'em twelve days. Starting on the night of the twenty-fourth and going until Epiphany (January 5), celebrations can include masses, feasts, gift-giving, caroling and all that. But let's take a look at some of the lesser known traditions. In some Scandinavian countries, Santa is played by the part of *Tomte* the Christmas gnome, who lives under floorboards and rides a straw goat. In the southern US, firearms are shot to greet distant neighbours on Christmas Day. In Alaska, a star on a pole is taken from door to door while "Herod's Men" try to capture it. And in parts of Spain, the town's youth wrap themselves in emerald-studded sheets and gallop around the streets holding up a figure of the Immaculate Virgin while the townsfolk fire shotguns in the air. (Hah, hah! I knew we weren't the only ones!)

Presents: Most people have replaced that whole twelve days of Christmas thing with only one day of presents. On the upside, they're allowed to be store bought and consumer-related.

BOXING DAY

Let's not forget the illustrious Canadian tradition of Boxing Day (Dec. 26).

History: Also celebrated in the UK, New Zealand and

Australia, this holiday falls on St. Stephen's Day. St. Stephen was an early and largely unknown saint whose main claim to fame is that he had the honour of being the first Christian martyr. Stoned to death. Very painful I've heard. Lucky him. Originally this day was a celebration of charity and got its name from the charity boxes



A wink and a smile for Ramadan

opened by priests the day after Christmas.

Practice: The tradition has changed a little since then and now is about taking full advantage of after-holiday sales. I will refrain from comment.

Presents: Everything you really wanted for Christmas.

NIGHT OF THE RADISHES

And last but certainly not least is the seldom recognized, but highly influential Night of the Radishes (Dec. 23).

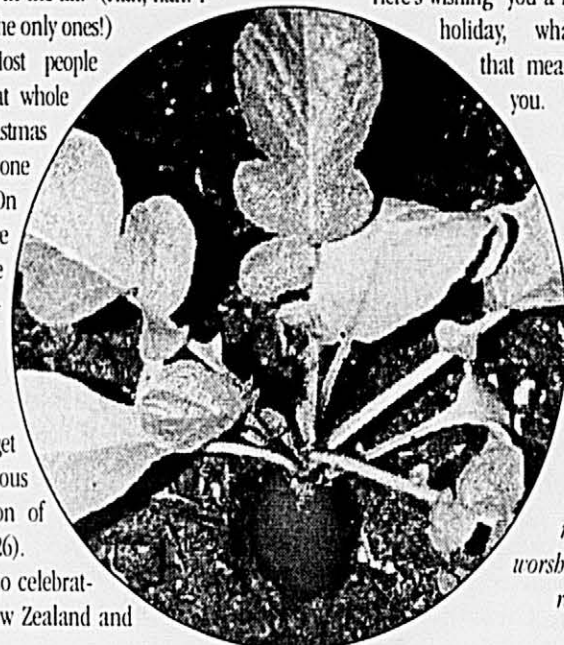
History: This Mexican holiday commemorates the introduction of the radish by the Spanish (I'm not joking).

Practice: Mexican radishes, while very large, are usually distorted by the rocky soil. Artisans use these unusual shapes to carve the radish into elaborate scenes from the Bible or Aztec legend. Prizes are given at the end of the day, and the evening culminates with a fireworks display.

Presents: I'm not really sure, but if I had to guess, I'd say...radishes.

So there you have a full description of my holiday season. I've got some latkas on the stove, my flag of Africa facing east, my Yule log in the fake fireplace, my shotgun loaded, my wad of cash ready to spend on a poor and underprivileged McGill student, my recipe for radish soup and...I'm still...not...eating.

Here's wishing you a happy holiday, whatever that means to you.



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In a New York State of mind

Filling Up Space

CCA displays results of architectural competition

BY DANIELLE HOFFMAN
Culture Reporter

If you could build anything you wanted in a neglected area of New York City, what would you build? The Canadian Centre for Architecture's latest exhibit, "New York: CCA Competition for the Design of Cities," takes a fascinating look at several answers.

Early last year the CCA's founding director, Phyllis Lambert, with the help of fellow architect Ralph Lerner, created a competition in which five finalists are given an underdeveloped area of New York's West Side to develop however they see fit. Attention had to be paid to "urban elements and relationships that are traditionally part of zoning regulation," as well, a meeting preceded the competition with concerned members of the surrounding community. Each finalist was given a large photo of the three million square foot area, a 32 by 8 foot wall to decorate with his or her proposed architectural vision, and an actual tour of the site. The five finalist exhibits were displayed in Grand Central Station in New York for several months before being moved to the CCA. Lambert lauded her team's selection of a variety of finalists: Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto represented the "youngest generation," their firm has only been around since 1986. Ben Van Berkel and Caroline Bos are architects well known for their Erasmus Bridge, constructed in 1996 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Peter Eisenman was an educator for years before he established his practice in 1980, proceeding to design everything from social housing in Berlin to a football stadium in Arizona. Thom Mayne's firm Morphosis has been around since 1972, employing around 20 architects and designers and winning dozens of competitions and awards. Cedric Price rounds out the finalists with his 40-year-old firm. He is known for his tendency to think abstractly. The five resulting projects are engaging and diverse. Eisenman was the winner of the \$100,000 prize; his is also the largest design in scale and, presumably, least pragmatic. It included an 80,000-seat

sports stadium, a high rise office tower, and a low-rise building with a park running across its roof. The concept has been well thought out, but is on too grand a scale to ever be constructed. This is most likely because the point of the competition, as Lambert admitted when questioned, was to show possibilities unaffected by the very real political and economical concerns. As she put it, the project was "utopian, but grounded in reality."

Utopian is certainly one word to describe Reiser and Umemoto's equally unlikely "infrastructural flow," a detailed model covered in long, spaghetti-like strands. Lerner revealed in an whisper to one questioner during the tour, "the pasta is a roof." Reiser's plan was to create an immense, undulating roof structure, with a park, hotel spaces, and an extension of the convention centre beneath it. This concept is more aesthetically pleasing than Eisenman's megastructure, but probably just as unlikely.

Berkel and Bos's model was by the far the most eye-pleasing; a plastic-enclosed space glowing with an ethereal blue light. Lerner offered his own opinion that these entrants had spent too much time on analysis and not on concept, which is evident through their meticulous detailing of new terms like "rucksack" (multipurpose spaces), but their rather cavalier plan to demolish the nearby colossal Convention Center and build a "World Media Center."

Mayne lived up to the name "Morphosis" with his complex jigsaw of a concept. Instead of sticking to the 32 by 8 foot space, he built his own aluminum structure, including the use of four computers offering different views of his structure. Mayne's project is the most difficult to comprehend, due in part to his "morphologies," abstract descriptions of spaces with names like "noodles," "crepes," and even "conquistadors."

Price, Lerner said with no small amount of disdain in his voice, was the "least ambitious;" he showed up with his model rolled up in a tube. It was, in fact, the very same scale picture provided by the CCA team, with a few wooden structures set on top. Price decided the site should be

emptied, and a simple park be built, creating a "lung for Manhattan." His presentation consisted of designs scribbled at that moment, slides of incongruous images and cryptic phrases like "technology is the answer, but WHAT was the question?" It was improvisational, a "theatre piece." Though clearly Price put about one tenth as much effort and thought into his project, I admire his cheekiness.

A photo journal inspired by the project, an engaging and dichotomous exhibit entitled "Toys and Transport," and a rather dry historical exhibit on "Montréal Mobile" round out the "Cities in Motion" theme at the CCA. If you've never been to this reliable Montreal museum, now is a perfect time.

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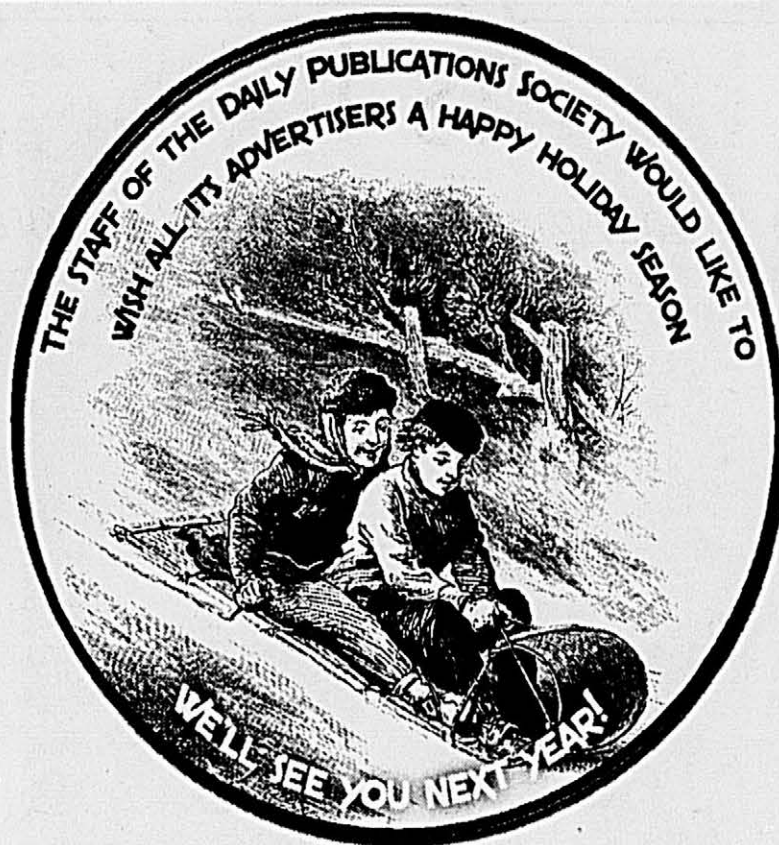
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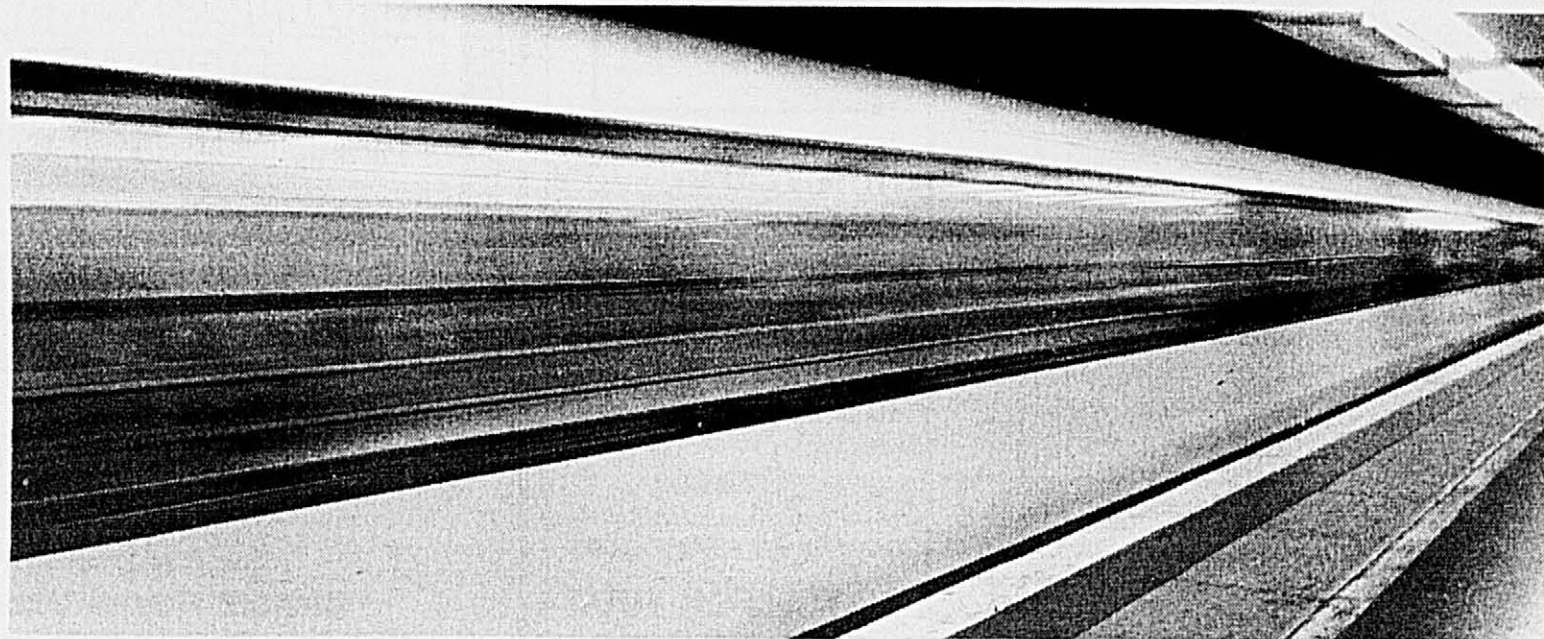
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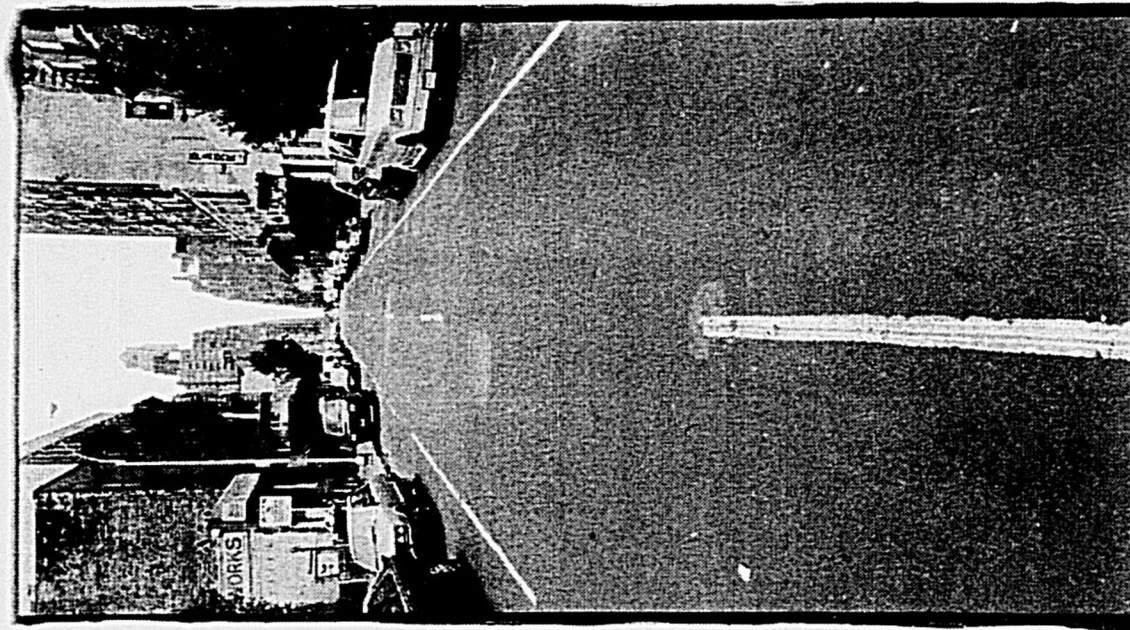
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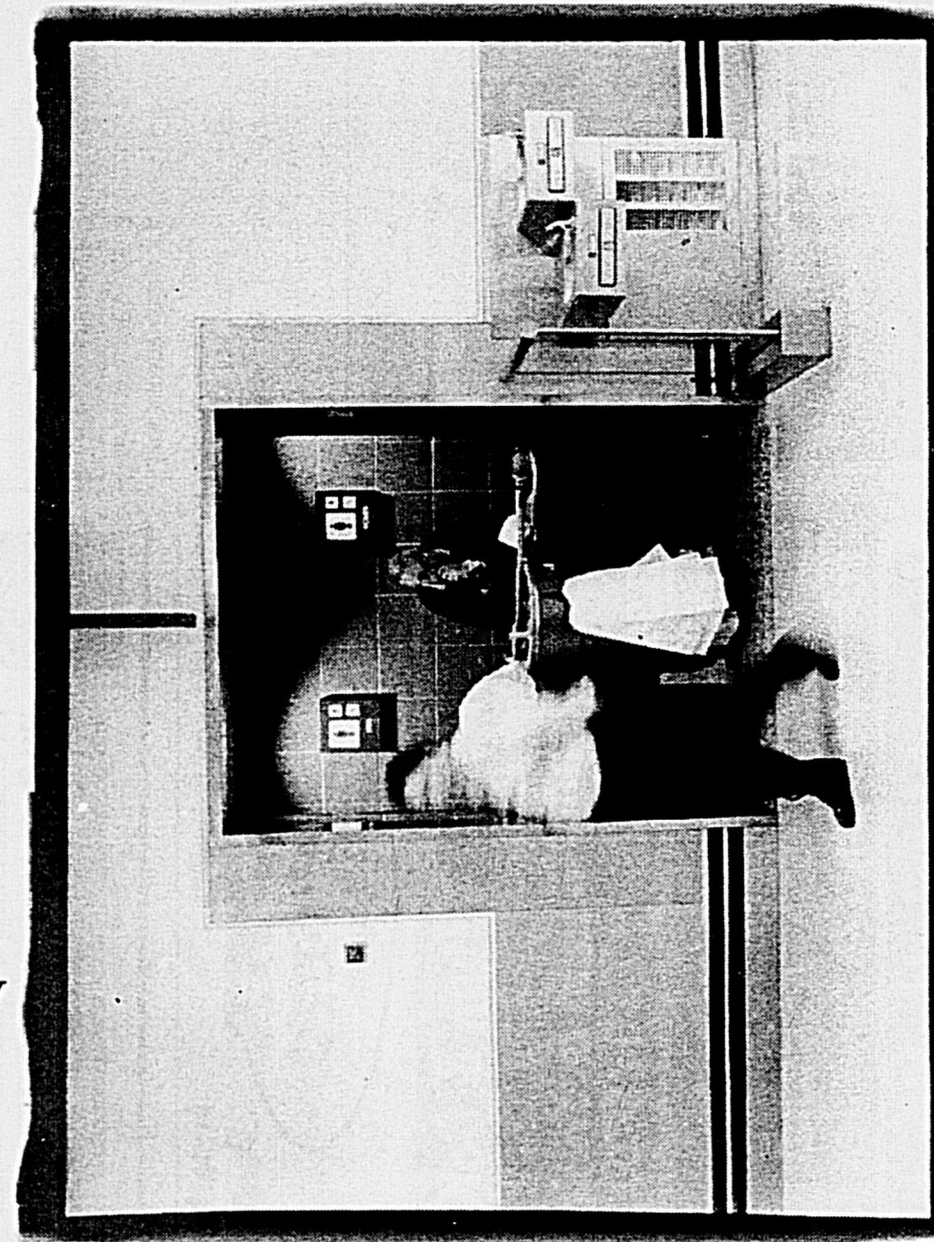




Citystyles #4

By Pierre Alain Parfond

This is the last installment of my photo essay series. This time we made it bigger since it's the last issue of the millennium (the real millennium). Scenes were taken in New York and Paris from '98 to this very year. (you have to guess which ones). That said, enjoy.



Shatner Cuisine Put to the Test

Tour the sights, sounds and tastes of the concrete monolith where our office once was

BY SEAN MICHAELS
The McGill Daily

I can still remember Marcia's shout of unadulterated bliss, exclaimed when, upon shuffling towards the Arts' Building, she first caught sight of the Tim Hortons sign that had been erected in the basement of Redpath. She jumped and clapped her hands together, thoughts of cappuccino and French vanilla wafting through her imagination. Her exultation was matched by Liana, who murmured an equally appreciative, although perhaps less cosmopolitan: "Timmy Ho's!" The Americans in our company peered around, trying to identify the source of such excitement. They were sorely disappointed.

Tim Hortons, of course, is an exception to the rule. The appearance of most new eateries does not elicit a jumping, cheering, huzzah-filled welcome dance. I certainly saw no such response to the new food court that recently opened in the Shatner building. Although the ads appeared everywhere, I have not once heard a delighted "Tiki-Ming!" expressed by anyone inside or outside of my social circle. The reason for that, however, will later be made clear.

Not to be dissuaded by a lack of immense public interest, however, this writer found himself standing on the second floor of the Shatner building, bathed in the warm glow of the new gastronomic bazaar that is Veggirama, Franx Supreme, and Tiki-Ming. Appetite piqued, I marched towards the counter of the aforementioned T-Ming, and prepared for the first course of my critical examination of this new dining centre. The afternoon was still young and I was very hungry.

I will admit straightway that I am a closet Asian fast-food fan. A guilty devotee of Manchu Wok, I have always harboured a secret taste for the chemical-battered, sauce-from-a-tube, frozen-then-thawed rice, noodles and egg rolls that are the staple of many a Chinese-themed food kiosk. It has always struck me as being a little bit like a cigarette addiction: you know it's bad for you, but there's something about the way ginger chicken glistens in the orange heat-lamps...

Tiki-Ming was particularly inviting, because there appeared to be a section - the menu for which was visible in both English and Asian characters - for which the food was prepared fresh. Dishes such as "Shrimp and Egg-" and "Pineapple Thai Style-" fried rice, as well as some noodle plates, appeared to be produced in real woks, before your eyes. This area, the information for which had been done up on beautiful chalkboards, looked very appealing, and the prices ran from \$5-6. Nevertheless, I decided to leave the Tiki-Ming 'haute cuisine' for another day, and my eyes searched the walls for signs describing the combos of 'normal' Asian fast-food. Success was found in the form of a "two item, with rice or noodles" combination platter. Wanting to experience the full breadth of Tiki-Ming's style, I ordered both rice and noodles, as well as the suitably yellow lemon chicken. I walked away from the cash \$4.75 (+ tax) poorer. Eagerly I sat, pulled out the small plastic cutlery, and lifted a heaping forkful of (chicken?) fried rice to my mouth.

Euuuuarrghhh!!
I think I literally said that (although my spelling might be wrong). "Euuuuarrghhh!!" It was horrible. The rice, although cooked to the right firmness, was saturated with this flavour that can only be described as... completely and utterly revolting. Well, that's not true. It could also be described as "Euuuuarrghhh!!".

The rice tasted sour and soapy and dead and like black licorice, all at the same time. Not just that forkful; all of it. It was inedible. The noodles? Slightly better, but you could tell they had mixed in whatever sauce the rice had used.

As for the lemon chicken? It tasted like normal, fast-food lemon chicken, only it was cold. Some people might eat the entire meal anyway, despite it being horrendously gross. I am not one of those people. Although my initial plan had been to sample all three of the food court kiosks in one sitting, after consuming what little Tiki-Ming I had, I changed my plan. Veggirama and Franx Supreme would wait for another day. As for the formerly

enticing 'fresh' section of Tiki-Ming? Let it merely be said that I have no intention of shelling out six bucks to give the place a second chance.

A few days later, after overcoming a torrid illness (one which, I hope, was not incited by my Asian Experience), I returned to the Shatner. Hankering for something completely unrelated to fried rice, I opted for the straightforward facade of Franx Supreme. This old-fashioned burger & fries joint sells hotdogs, club sandwiches, and even pizza, for quite affordable prices. A zillion combos will provide you with more than enough food, for about \$5. They even have yummy-looking pizzas, and the ovens sitting behind the counter appear to be both operational, and far more authentic than the toy lightbulb ovens they use when producing the sub-par pizza-pies at the Redpath's Pizza Hut.

Behind the counter of Franx Supreme, an entire family seemed at work. All were genuinely friendly, from the 9-year old boy manning the hot-dog machine, to the older woman at the cash. I ordered fries and a hotdog (we've already established that my tastes are not the most capricious), which cost me a lean \$3.50. The fries were of an excellent (although not quite Mondo Frite) quality, and the hotdog was as good as any I have eaten at La Belle Province. Franx Supreme is definitely worth visiting, if you like what they have to offer.

Finally, Veggirama. This place has been open for longer than the other two joints, and lots of students appear to enjoy its selection of fresh salads and soups. I bought a combo that consisted of a small salad, lemon Crystal "tastes like burning" Light, and spaghetti with "red sauce." The name of this sauce worried me, but it turned out to be a quite tasty - full of crunchy, fresh vegetables. Unfortunately, the pasta was also quite cold.

Apart from the horrible beverage (but then, I was already familiar with Crystal Light when I ordered it), the measly helping of salad, and the lukewarm nature of the spaghetti, Veggirama was pretty good. It's not very cheap, though (almost \$6 for that

combo), so if you've got the time, you might as well take the hike down to St-Laurent and benefit from the pasta or sandwiches at Euro-Deli or Frite Alors. All in all, if you're on the run, the Shatner now has some tasty alterna-

tives for the seeker of salad, burger, pizza or fries. It's also got some horrible alternatives for the seeker of chicken-fried-rice. Go with caution, and be nice to the people at Franx Supreme. They're cool.



Captain Kirk would surely get his dinner here

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A Real Honey of a Band

Montreal's *The Dears* come home to play pre-recording gig at Café Campus

BY KIRSTEN CAMPBELL
The McGill Daily

The Dears played to a hometown crowd on November 23. On this, their last date before heading into the studio to begin recording the follow up to their debut CD, *End of a Hollywood Bedtime Story*, the diverse group of players were limited to a short, barely-over-an-hour-long set with only one encore, leaving fans slightly dissatisfied. But really, nothing, not even a bonafied rock-opera, ought to stand in the way of Café Campus' Thursday "dance nite," *n'est ce pas?*

Julie Doiron began the evening with her stark, beautiful songs, and her usual self-effacing words between pieces about how lost she is up on stage, and the difficulty she has sticking to a setlist. Her music made for a deceptively mellow beginning to the evening.

The Dears took the stage unassum-

ingly, with each member quietly picking up their instrument, and beginning to weave a tapestry of sound through the under-filled Café Campus. This became a driving psychedelic intro, which continued to build until lead singer/songwriter, Murray Lightburn, reined it in and began to croon of his sweet sorrows.

For those who have not had the pleasure of seeing this band live, they are comprised not merely of two guitars, bass, keyboard and drums, but also of a french horn, trumpet, trombone, two saxes and a cello. Suffice to say that this was not a typical rock show, as Mr. Lightburn acted not only as frontman, but often as conductor to the mini-orchestra.

The members of the band come from diverse backgrounds, yet the overall product is as appealing as it is unique. They deal in retro-pop *avec un sentiment tres francais*, with Lightburn's operatic voice the main focus and drama of the performance.

The crowd kept a respectful distance from the stage throughout the entire performance. No one seemed willing to cross a fifteen-foot buffer zone bathed in yellow light, which ran the length of the stage. The group moved through a set of songs from *End of a Hollywood Bedtime Story*, with a few new ones thrown in for good measure.

The final song climaxed with Lightburn alternately howling and mewling into the microphone like a wounded animal, crumpled in a heap at the front of the stage. It was beautiful. This band's sound has been described as a mixed bag of Stereolab, Serge Gainsbourg, Blur, Spiritualized and Morrissey vocals, but it seems most fitting to simply call their sound their own. The different influences and styles blend beautifully to create a pleasing product which, at this point, isn't really being duplicated by anyone else. Enjoy the originality while you can, and watch out for the spin-offs.



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Wishing Upon a Literary Star

Alberto Manguel sets the bar high for aspiring scribes

BY JONATHAN MONTPETIT
Culture Reporter

The crowd was growing restless. Chants of 'Al-ber-to! Al-ber-to!' resounded throughout as literary hooligans banged their chairs in anticipation. Finally the lights dimmed and the voice on the loudspeaker came on: "Ladies and Gentlemen..."

Okay, so maybe that wasn't how the stage was set, but Manguel is an internationally recognized literary star and his reading at the Double Hook bookstore last Friday reflected this brilliance. Cramped in the basement, a crowd of thirty-plus gathered to listen to Manguel read from his recent release *Reading Pictures: A History of Love and Hate*.

Manguel is probably best known for his seminal *A History of Reading*. Besides being an international best-seller, the book has garnered numerous awards, among them France's prestigious Prix Médicis. The rest of his resumé would make any freelance writer drool. Being the son of a diplomat, Manguel, who was born in Buenos Aires, traveled a great deal as a child and is fluent in five languages. He has lived in Italy, France, England, and Tahiti. He originally came to Canada to work on his *Dictionary of Imaginary Places* in 1982. The success of that book prompted him to stay, acquiring Canadian citizenship in 1984. During the past two years he has been a writer-in-residence with the Markin Flanagan

Distinguished Writers Program at the University of Calgary.

Manguel's newest book departs slightly from the stream of his earlier works in that it deals with art, mainly how we interpret its images. *Reading Pictures* offers a compendium of photographs, paintings, sculptures, even architectural drawings, all in an effort to establish why we feel the way we do when we look at art. Rather than present the book as strictly a tool for professional analysis, Manguel makes it accessible to anyone interested in how images work.

When asked about the relationship of visual art to reading, Manguel noted that he views their roles as equivalent, adding that music follows in a similar vein. "Our society is dominated by so much madness," he said. For Manguel art presents a relief, a sanity through the chaos.

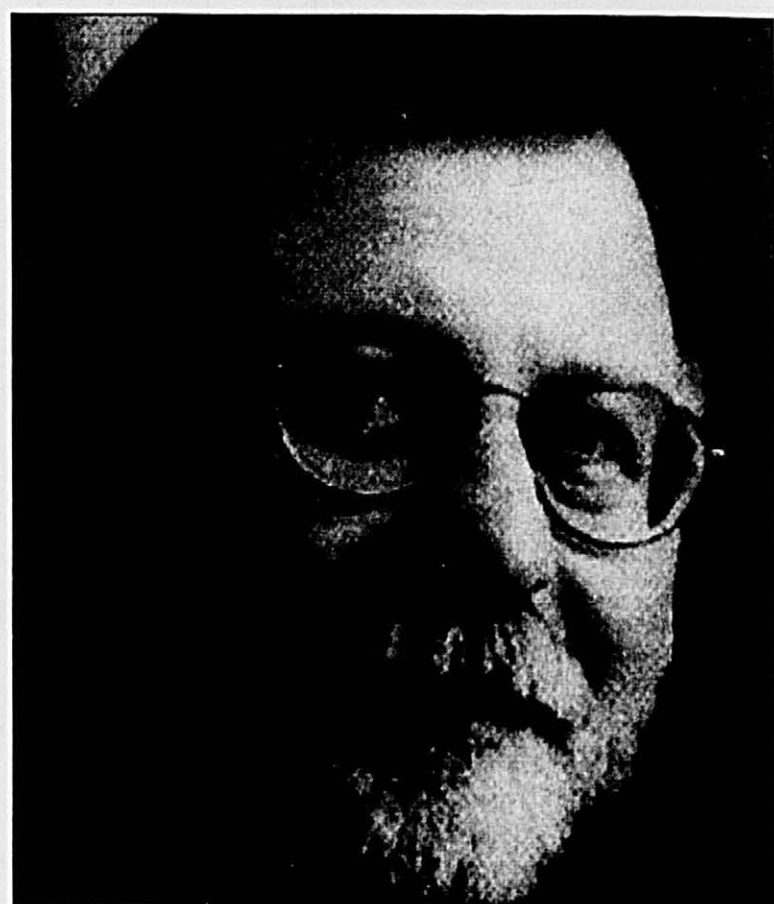
Naturally his approach differs depending on whether he is examining text or images, but the concept is the same. Manguel is basically interested in the story told by a work of art, and what contributes to our understanding of this story. Explaining this idea in his book, Manguel recalls one of the first images he became consciously aware of. At a young age in his painter/aunt's studio, he discovered a print of Vincent van Gogh's *Shipping Boats on the Beach at Saintes-Maries*. Manguel claimed that his understanding of this image is as much influenced by the colors and brushstrokes as it is by the memory of

how he happened upon the print.

His book as well as his reading is peppered by such digressions. In an essay entitled "Borges in Love" from his collection *Into the Looking Glass Wood*, Manguel recounts a story of when, as a teenager working in a bookstore, he had an opportunity to meet the great Jorge Luis Borges. Borges, who was blind at the time, proceeded to invite the young Manguel to his apartment and asked him to read aloud. This kind of sidebar gives his account of Borges' writings another dimension. Like most writers he is a man of many opinions, and like most writers he is not afraid to express them. By virtue of his background they are given added weight.

Manguel begins his reading with a plug for independent booksellers. Double Hook, incidentally, is an independently owned bookstore which specializes in Canadian literature. "The big chains will slowly shove the books that matter off the shelves," Manguel told his audience. Speaking to Manguel later, I could tell that he cares passionately about the survival of art and literature in the face of globalization.

"There is an immense threat" said Manguel "not because globalization adheres to some concept of cosmopolitanism, but that its guiding principle is corporate greed." He pointed to the undemocratic component of corporations as part of the root of the problem. "They are not answerable to anyone"



He looks so authoritative

he stated, "they would market condoms and pizzas like they would books, they're indifferent... If this continues we'll have to go back to some type of medieval system to get the books that count."

But is good art still possible in this age of consumerism? Reassuringly, Manguel thinks so. He related a story of

an exhibition he once saw of art made by the inmates of Auschwitz. "Mothers would embroider anything on the tiniest pieces of cloth just to have art," he explained, going on to point out that if art can survive these harshest of circumstances, it should have no problem facing the corporate demon behind Chapters.

the BOOKSHELF



READING PICTURES: A HISTORY OF LOVE AND HATE
BY ALBERTO MANGUEL
KNOPE, 320 PAGES

Alberto Manguel is probably the most versatile writer writing in Canada today. With a body of work that includes award winning novels, anthologies, and translations, it is difficult to dispute his place as at the forefront of Canadian letters. Few can match his ability to write on any topic at will. It is a skill further demonstrated in his most recent effort, *Reading Pictures: A History of Love and Hate*.

In *Reading Pictures*, Manguel focuses on the general realm of images and art in particular. He analyzes the reasons why the view-

er, will react in a certain way to a certain piece of art. Manguel looks at how we go about trying to understand the images we perceive.

Dividing the chapters by themes associated with particular artists, Manguel explores their particular work in a detail which is not too confining. For example in the chapter entitled "Pablo Picasso: The image as violence," Manguel is able to discuss the relationship of Picasso to his mistresses, as well as commenting on the effects of this century's horrors. Manguel doesn't limit his scope to canonical figures such as Picasso; included is a chapter about Canadian artist Marianna Gartner. There is also a chapter on an eighteenth century French architect, C. N. Ledoux, who designed a salt fac-

tory which Manguel admires.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of the book is that it avoids presenting convoluted theories about the interpretation of art. Rather Manguel offers his opinion, which is given in an honest manner, alongside various anecdotes to help the reader through the more complex arguments. Manguel's prose is easily up to the task of the heavy subject matter, but it is the various quotes and color pictures which really complement his themes. Being so well-read, Manguel has the uncanny ability to place a thought-provoking quote at just the right moment to put the reader in the desired frame of mind. A fine instance of this is Samuel Beckett's comment, "to restore silence is the role of

objects," which precedes a chapter on the image as absence.

The only negative criticism which I dare make are the lengthy sentences Manguel seems fond of. No undergrad would get away with such long-windedness. They often appear at the crux of his arguments and force the reader to backtrack to truly understand what he is saying. Aside from that Manguel presents a solid work, one which is at once entertaining and interesting. Alas, what is a review around this time of year without the suggestion that it is the perfect gift. Alberto Manguel's *Reading Pictures* is an ideal Christmas present for the budding art historian and the most seasoned gallery veteran. — Jonathan Montpetit

Alberto Manguel Reading Pictures



A History of Love and Hate

Taking Exams? Read This.

Study strategies for beating exam stress

BY SARI LONG
The McGill Daily

There is a certain time of year that falls somewhere between December 7th and December 21st when the minds of students run amok, eyes are permanently bloodshot and pulses race with the combined effects of over-caffeination, under sleep and skyrocketing stress levels. Clearly, exams have arrived and there is no escape.

Short of packing up and hightailing it to Costa Rica, exams can be manageable and even a time of joyful celebration. Okay, maybe not celebration, but at least, with this exclusive Mind and Body guide, you can arrive home for the holidays with your wits intact and your health in triumph.

Obviously, the exam period is going to be stressful and nerve-racking. By placing incredible importance on a few hours of your life, you will inevitably have feelings of inadequacy and panic in the days and weeks leading up to the actual event. Pressure to do well from yourself, parents and peers may accumulate, and you may feel that your performance on your exams will determine the outcome of the rest of your life. True, doing well on your exams is important, but in the Great Scheme of Things, failure to live up to certain standards will not spell disaster for your future. By keeping in mind your abilities, your goals and your accomplishments, you will be able to put your exams in perspective. Read, memorize and religiously practice the following exam strategies and you will do the best you can with what you have and still live to tell the tale.

BEFORE YOUR EXAMS...

1. Talk to people who know. Speak to your prof about the exam, making sure you know the exam format and any special study hints the particularly nice profs will reveal. Also, if you're concerned about how to study or about exam skills, get in touch with a tutor who can help you out. You'll be less nervous in the actual exam, sort of like those MCAT and LSAT examination courses.

2. While studying, take short breaks. As any veteran student knows, your mind doesn't work that well when it's tired. Take care of your brain—it may be the only thing you've got.

3. Plan your work well. You know the times you work well, so don't study at the times you function at vegetable level.

4. Stay healthy, which is easier said than done, but still very important. Sleep enough, eat better than you normally would and just take care of yourself. If you come down with mono or the flu right before your exam, chances are you won't do as well as if you weren't wiping boogies and phlegm away every ten seconds.

5. Exercise! Even if you don't normally, a little bit o' action can be really beneficial. You'll feel better and your mind will be energized.

6. Stay positive! If you keep thinking about the future and failing, your brain will be distracted and will forget the impor-

tant information you need for your exams.

7. "All you can do is all you can do, and all you can do is enough."

8. Stay alert and focused as much as possible, but in a relaxed way.

9. But don't get too relaxed. A bit of

12. Breathing and relaxation are important. Don't forget to do either. Taking time for yourself is equally as important as studying for your exam. Try not to feel guilty about taking time off reviewing.

13. Make lists of achievable targets, then cross them out when they're done.

14. Be an "active learner". Don't just read and re-read. Ask yourself questions as you review, and try to relate what you're reading to other parts of the course.

15. They always say to avoid coffee because it increases anxiety and nervousness, but it's an unavoidable part of exams for most. Just keep it down to two pots a day, and remember to supplement the consequential increased calcium loss in some way.

ON EXAM DAY...

1. Get a good night's rest. Cramming never hurt, but it can be proven to be detrimental to your carefully accumulated long term knowledge.

2. Eat a good breakfast. Get some good glucose in your system so your brain has something to munch on when it's in full effect.

3. Remember all your important stuff: McGill ID, watch, two pencils, two erasers, two pens, a calculator/protractor/compass/abacus, a snack if you think you'll need it, a watch and your lucky underwear.

4. Get to your exam room a bit early so you know you're in the right place. Try not to get intimidated by the rows and rows of

institutional desks jammed in the gym.

5. Avoid intense conversation right before the exam.

6. Remember to breathe deeply and affirm yourself positively, Stuart Smalley-style.

7. Skim the entire exam to get a general idea but don't panic if you don't know how to answer some questions right away.

8. Organize your time by allotting specific amounts to each part and adhere to these allotments.

9. Write out a plan for the essay portions when you get to them, making sure to put details and content in the introduction, main body and conclusion. You'll get more ideas as you write on.

10. Make sure you're answering the question. If the question says "evaluate" don't describe. If the question says "compare and contrast", don't just compare. There's a reason profs put words like that in exams and it's not to trick you but to allow you to show what you know.

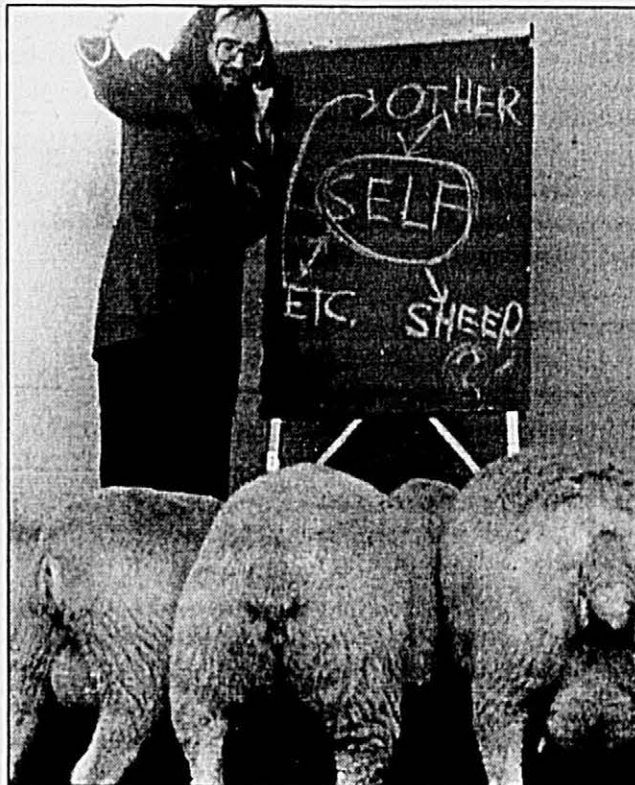
11. When answering multiple choice questions, always try to eliminate at least two if you're not sure. Pay attention to words like "except" and "but". Tricky devils, these.

12. Make sure you go back over the entire exam when finished, noting details, dates and equations. These will make your mark, so don't overlook them.

13. Stand up and shout, "I'm the king/queen of the world!" when you've finished your exam so the invigilator knows you're done.

14. Ignore 13.

15. Refrain from discussing the exam once you're finished if it makes you nervous because there's nothing you can do about it once it's turned in. You did your best, now forget about it and go to Bifteck for some debauchery before getting aboard the train home.

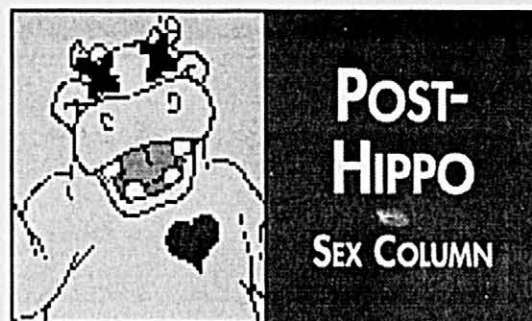


If sheep can learn, bey, you're golden...

stress is good for you because it makes you work harder.

10. Review in groups and revise little bits of your notes. Big chunks of studying may not be as beneficial as you may think, and varying your study topics works different parts of your brain, which is a good thing.

11. If you study best at night, don't go right to bed afterwards. Work out, call a friend or do anything else to relax you. Your brain will retain more, and you'll be able to sleep more easily.



BY SLY JUNKET CLERK
The McGill Daily

Post-Hippo has already headed, if you'll excuse the pun, off for a little R&R during his non-denominational holiday break. So he has left me to opine on his subject, this week.

Probing the dark recesses of my mind for a topic, I came across this idea: Holiday Sex. Or if you prefer, Sex-mas. If you're up for a little Hanu-cock or Ram-adan over the break, read on.

Let's be honest. You know the reason why so many of your friends were born at the end of August or early September? It's because, while some may see the holiday season as a time of religious contemplation, many more are dropping to their knees and shouting to God and it ain't midnight Mass.

The solstice, when the days get longer, is a time of celebration. These celebrations pop up in almost every religion: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Wicca and others. It is however, also a very cold time of year, so a lot of the activities will be taking

place inside. And what better way to fete the return of the sun, than to snuggle up in front of the fireplace and keep yourself warm.

A quick visit to a local sex shop will demonstrate that the holiday season is a popular time for lovers. Lingerie sales are higher now than around Valentine's Day. There are Sexy Santa costumes and tinsel condoms ready to help you spread, uh, the holiday cheer. Why celebrate Jesus's birth, which historians place in March or April anyway, when you can celebrate his conception?

The holidays are a great time to travel, and whether you're heading home for the holidays or abroad, you may end up in the Santa sack with someone you just met.

According to researchers at the University of Cardiff, 18-34 year old men are more likely than women to have sex with a new partner when on holiday, but 18-34 year old women on holiday are more likely to have unprotected sex with a new partner. So, remember, boys and girls, don't accept or give any parcels unless they're gift-wrapped.

And then of course, there's New Year's

Eve. This day is almost as popular for virginity loss as high school prom. Of course, the holidays are a special time for me. I lost mine while my parents were out at Handel's *Messiah* at Notre Dame Basilica. The Hallelujah chorus has since had a special significance for me. Ah, the nostalgia of holidays, replete with debauchery under the menorah or Christmas tree, depending.

Post-Hippo will return after the holidays. E-mail him your holiday sex stories at laud@botmail.com.

Here Comes Santa Claus

Post-Hippo: on holiday Pre-Hippo: takes over, dominatrix style

No Meat, More Sleep

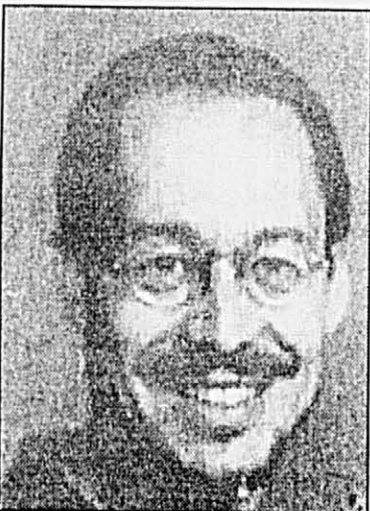
Dr. Crisafi takes on Western ideas about diet and medicine

BY PATRICK GUYER
The McGill Daily

Unlike most of the people who taught the subject of health in my primary and secondary schools, Dr. Daniel Crisafi has a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry to attest to his expertise in the fields of health and nutrition. And during his information-packed and rather controversial four-hour presentation at the World Beat Center on Nov. 12, he set about correcting many of the misconceptions that conventional health education instills in our minds. The session, presented by Vegetarian Pour La Vie and the Canadian Health Association, was an intense tutorial in healthy living addressing what Crisafi cited as being the four pillars of good health: diet, rest, exercise, and mental wellness.

Although Crisafi stressed that all four pillars were equally important for good health, more than half of the presentation was dedicated to dietary issues. The doctor had harsh words for the average animal product-heavy North American diet that is becoming increasingly popular around the world. Noting that studies affirming the four food groups theory of nutrition were completely funded by the beef, poultry, and dairy industries, Crisafi went on to elaborate on how a diet full of meat, dairy, eggs, and other animal products is having disastrous impacts on the general well-being of our society and the world.

According to Crisafi, nearly 80% of Canadians die before their biological time due to heart disease and cancers which can at least be partially attributed to high levels of fat and cholesterol in their diet. Also, despite the fact that the North American diet is packed-full of calcium-rich dairy products, Canada and the US have the



Dr. Daniel Crisafi speaks about the glories of going vegetarian, resting well, pumping much iron, and keeping emotional tabs on oneself. Sounds like the lifestyle of a student, alright.

highest rates of osteoporosis in the world. How can this be? The overabundance of animal proteins in our diets, according to Crisafi, actually leeches calcium out of our bones.

Fat, cholesterol and nutrients aside, the

consumption of animal products is one of the best ways to pollute your body with xenodiotics, a general term for artificial chemicals that the human body cannot properly process or dispose of, Crisafi said. These xenodiotics include artificial sweeteners, colorants, stabilizers, flavours, hormones, antibiotics and other chemicals. At the very least, these xenodiotics compromise our immune system's ability to effectively ward off infections and many, like saccharine, are carcinogens which can increase the chance of the development of certain cancers.

In modern agriculture, new factory farming methods pack thousands of meat-animals inside tight cages for the entirety of their short lives. Hormones are used to speed growth and maximize size, and antibiotics are pumped into these animals to prevent disease from spreading in their cramped and unsanitary homes. Because levels of antibiotics used in animals are

variety of fresh plant foods every day will satisfy all your nutritional needs without matching proteins or taking vitamin supplements. While a good diet is a fundamental part of good overall health, Dr. Crisafi did not neglect other topics in his presentation. Quoting a press release by the World Health Organization, Crisafi defined health as, "a state of complete physical, psychic, and social well-being and not merely the absence of illness and infirmities." With this in mind, the doctor went on to describe his recommendations on rest, exercise, and mental well-being.

Although most of us probably regularly cut ourselves short on getting enough sleep, especially during hectic exam times, Dr. Crisafi had a lot to say about the importance of rest for not just our alertness, but also to our health in general. We have all probably heard at some time or another that 8 or 9 hours of

sleep are required nightly for maximum alertness. However, Crisafi takes the view that sleep needs are relative and that "If you don't wake up feeling like you can conquer the world," then you're not sleeping enough.

Additionally, Crisafi noted that taking time out of each day to give your eyes and ears a break from audio and visual stimuli is a commonly ignored but nonetheless important factor in getting enough rest. Rest, Crisafi pointed out, is important not only to being awake and alert, but also to keeping our immune systems in top condition. Therefore, getting enough rest will not only help you feel more alert in general, it will also help keep you from getting sick.

On the topic of exercise, Crisafi was adamant about the importance of aerobic (walking, jogging, swimming) as well as anaerobic (weight training) exercise but again said that each person's exercise needs are different. However, in general, a combination of aerobic and anaerobic exercise should fill at least half an hour of each day.

Dr. Crisafi's final point was to state that our western society is the only culture in the world in which the medical establishment treats the body as a mechanical object and does not explain the integration of body and disease. Dr. Crisafi went on to explain how he views the mind and body as being inextricably linked in terms of general health.

Having been a general practitioner for many years, Crisafi was able to illustrate his statement with accounts of patients whose unexpressed or unaddressed anger, fear and grief manifested themselves as cancers and other serious diseases.

At the end of his presentation, it was not hard to believe one of Dr. Crisafi's opening

remarks that we, as a society, are not necessarily healthier today than we were 100 years ago despite what we commonly assume as to the superiority of our medical technology.

Overall, switching towards a more predominantly plant-based diet, paying attention to our rest needs, participating in daily aerobic and anaerobic exercise and always keeping our emotional health in mind are the four parts of Dr. Crisafi's prescription for optimal health and well-being.

Sound like a big job? As Dr. Crisafi

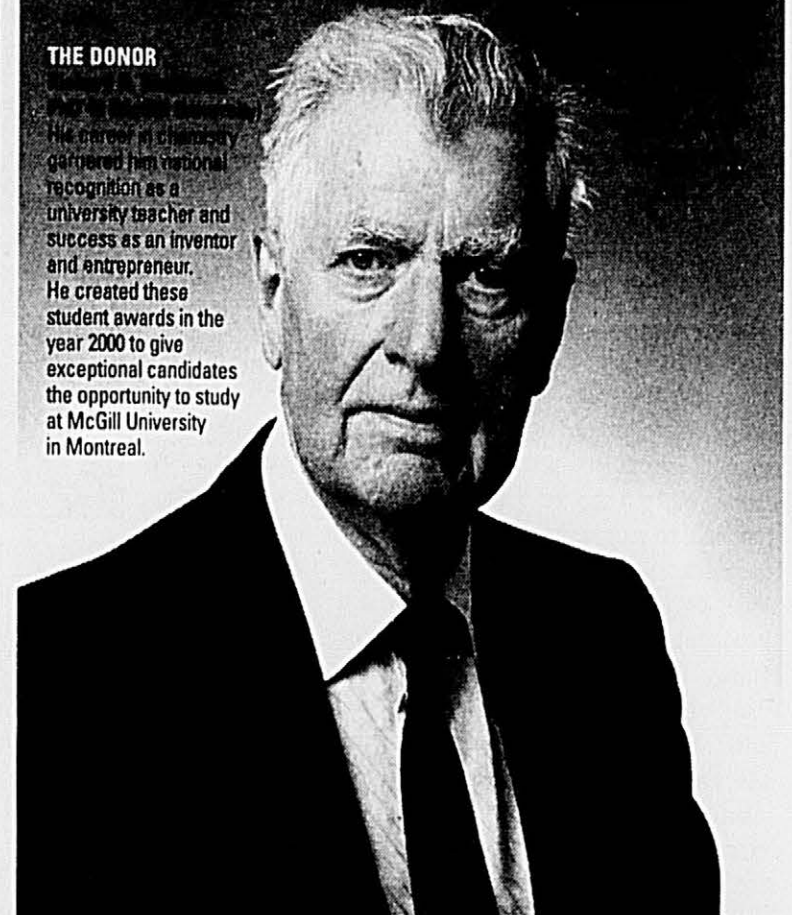
pointed out, the level of optimal health that complete adherence to his recommendations would provide is not something that everyone can pull off, but the closer we can get to it, the better off we'll be. Dr. Crisafi will be back to check on our progress on March 3 during a day of conferences on vegetarianism presented by the QPIRG-McGill working group, EarthSave.

More information will be available closer to the time of the event. You can contact QPIRG by calling 398-7432.

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Pick your Prison: Study Spaces for the Long Haul

Finding your niche for the long days and nights ahead

BY DANIELLE HOFFMAN
The McGill Daily

It's that time of year again, when the beloved McLennan-Redpath Library becomes the home-away-from-home for thousands of distraught and/or distracted students. With a twenty-four hour study space and extended hours in place for the rest of the semester, the library is an ideal spot for the committed crammer. Just in time for the new library residents is a handy guide to that architectural atrocity called Redpath, as well as some other, cooler places to visit.

If you're planning to spend the day at the library, the first place you'll probably go is the first floor study room in Redpath. This is not the most conducive study environment, in my opinion; you're surrounded by touchy, grouchy students, and there's always distracting noise from people out in the hall, not to mention a strange odor emanating from the washrooms. Instead, head for one of the carrels or tables on any of the neighbor library, McLennan's, other six floors. They tend to get less populated as you go up, and are much more pleasant, if institutional grey concrete can feasibly be called "pleasant". However, even during finals week you're guaranteed a spot on the upper level floors. And if its the comfy chairs on the first floor that you like (and lets face it, they're not that comfy) but don't want washroom stench to impede your studying, try heading to the International Student Lounge in the Shatner Building. Moving on in your search for the perfect study hole, you may stumble upon the English Lounge, which is hidden away in the first floor of the Arts Building. In the English Lounge, there's even couches, perfect for the brief (or not-so-brief) nap.

If you're planning on being sequestered in the library all day, you're going to need some diversions, and grabbing a quick bite to eat is always a good idea. By now I'm sure you know about the Tim Hortons/Pizza Pizza complex in the Redpath basement. This place is convenient, but it gets pretty crowded, especially during standard dinner and lunch hours. For a change, head across the street to Shatner's cafeteria (I've heard good things about Tiki Ming, though the Veggrama "vegetarian" food is seldom vegetarian), or down to the other Veggrama in the Arts basement. Both places offer a pretty good variety, and you're much more likely to find a seat. The McGill Bookstore Café has tasty sandwiches and overpriced coffee, but it gets loud and busy. Try the Architecture Café instead, which is somewhat gloomy but the only place where you'll find brie, empanadas, and the best baked goods on campus.

If you're thinking of avoiding your impending work for a while or need a break, Internet fun is also a good way to procrastinate, but waiting in line at the electronic classroom for half an hour, just to check your e-mail, is not. The ancient computers that line the wall of the lounge at the far right of McLennan

are rarely occupied (though this room can get pretty noisy), or if you have a language class (or know a friend who does), head down to the Language Lab on the pretext of doing an assignment. While you're exploring, there are plenty of other nifty study places to check out. The Birks reading room on University is, surprisingly, all its cracked up to be; comfortable, quiet, and not too pretentious. The stained glass windows, rickety staircase, and dusty shelves create a delightfully archaic atmosphere, but it sometimes gets a bit chilly. The Blackader-Lauterman library is right above Redpath, and supposedly the place to be during finals if you can't take the communal stress below.

If you need endless cups of coffee, don't bother with the Second Cup on McGill College; you'll never snag a seat, it's noisy, and the music selection varies from eighties pop to 'N Sync, and they will undoubtedly kick you out if you overstay your welcome. Instead, try Café Rencontre on Parc, which attracts a fun assortment of people, or if you're feeling adventurous, hike over to my personal favourite, the Newsroom on St. Laurent. With all these study options, why confine yourself to the noisy first floor of Redpath? Explore a bit, drink plenty of coffee, and just bear in mind that in a few weeks, it'll all be over.

Just Like Home

Toasty drinks to soothe the soul

BY SARI LONG
The McGill Daily

When you're at home and feeling down or sick, one of your parental units probably would make some sort of comfort drink to make you feel better. Hot chocolate, chamomile tea or warmed milk always hit the spot, but now that you're on your own and your roommates aren't taking care of you and the pressure of exams is getting extreme, it is essential relax in order to perform well these next couple of weeks. Try these yummy warm drinks to relax; you will be so glad you did, and your mom will be proud of you for something, if not for your shining performance on your finals.

GROG

- 1 cup of tea
- a bit of dark rum
- 1. First make a cup of tea. Earl Grey, Constant Comment or an orange spice blend are especially appropriate.
- 2. Combine with 1 ounce of dark rum.

HOT LEMONADE

- 1. Carefully wash the outside of a lemon
- 2. Rub 2 tablespoons of sugar over the outside of the lemon.
- 3. Boil 16 ounces of bottled spring water in a saucepan.
- 4. Juice the lemon.
- 5. Add 2 ounces sugar.

- 6. Add 1 teaspoon of dried mint leaves. Substituting a lime, grapefruit or an orange will give you a different taste.

Post-exam variation: 1 ounce of vodka Another variation is to use a dash of strawberry juice for a luscious pink color

MULLED CIDER

- 16 ounces of apple cider
- 2 sticks of cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon of cloves
- Warm under a low heat in a sauce pan for 3 minutes.
- A truly relaxing and renewing treat. If you don't have cider, make do with apple juice.

HOT CHOCOLATE

- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons dark corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon evaporated milk
- 1 cup of milk
- * teaspoon cinnamon
- 1. In a double boiler, gently warm the milk and evaporated milk, stirring constantly
- 2. Add corn syrup slowly. Stir well
- 3. Remove from heat and add cocoa and cinnamon.
- One Serving. Top with dried-spearmint, shaved chocolate and whipped cream. (Or you could just heat some water and throw in the powdered version of hot chocolate, but it's all about the real thing, isn't it?)

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9:00-14:00. Deadline is 14:00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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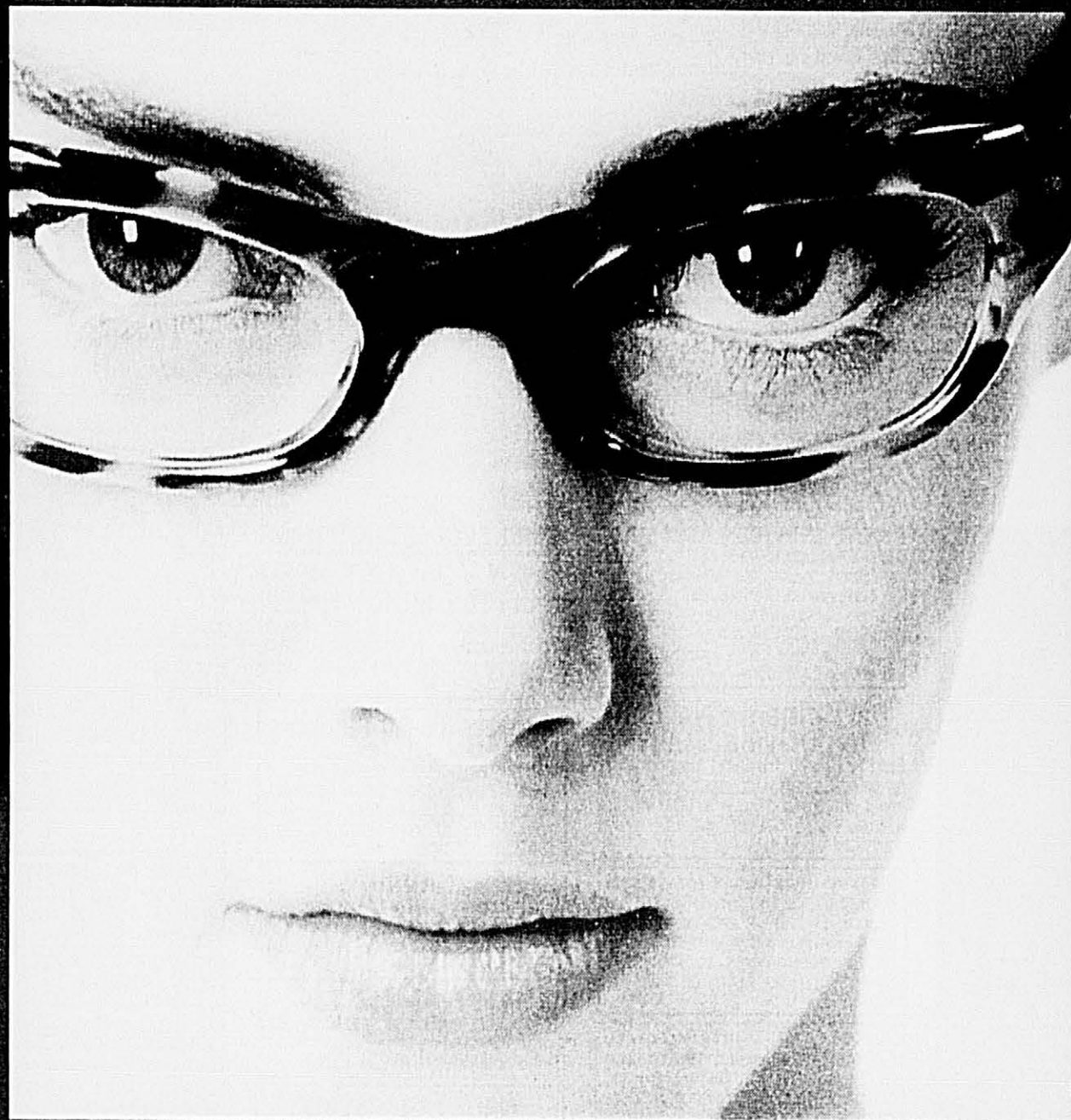
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